

# Desert

MAGAZINE of the SOUTHWEST

APRIL, 1963

40c



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GUEST RANCH → 3  
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Lurt and Alice Knee, licensed guides and owners of the Sleeping Rainbow Guest Ranch, with one of their four-wheel-drive cars at the head of the Capitol Gorge and at the turn-off to their ranch.

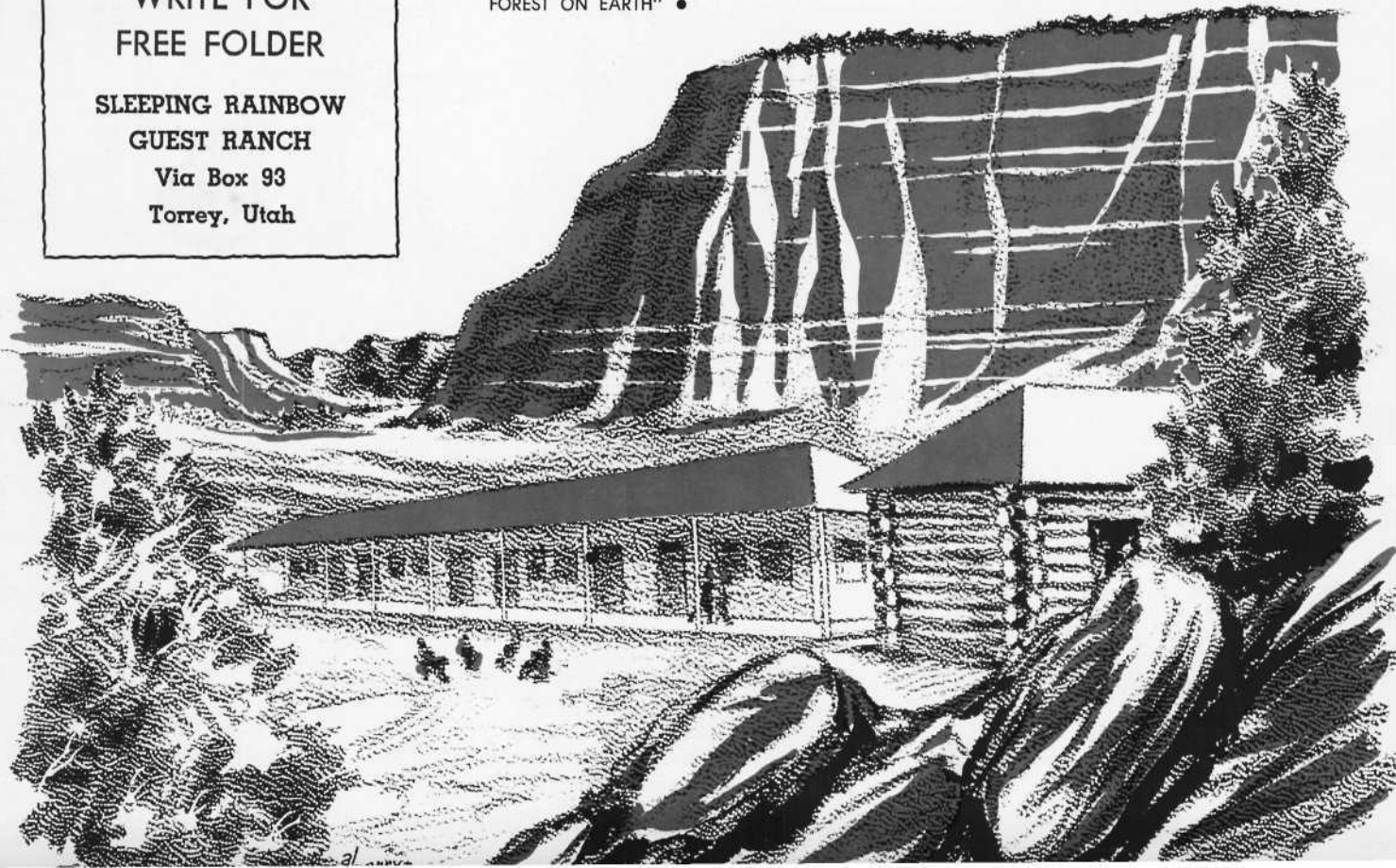
—Photo by Josef Muench.

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FOREST ON EARTH" •



## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

### Mojave Memories . . .

*To the Editor:* Your recent stories on the Mojave Desert were most enjoyable. We did so hope to go back to that country this winter—to Pinto Basin where the hummingbirds will practically let you pet them. The Basin was so warm and quiet. Please never tell me that someone has settled there.

JESSIE WIRT  
Harrisonville, Mo.

### Old Bottles . . .

*To the Editor:* We read with great joy Adele Reed's article on collecting old bottles (Feb. *DESERT*). We are new at this hobby, but no other pastime has given us as much enjoyment.

As with all hobbies, however, there are always some people who tend to spoil the fun. A case in point is the recent use of bulldozers in Virginia City to unearth bottles. While this simplifies matters, it does cut-down on the number of bottles that could be found in this area by future collectors.

The same sort of thing has happened to the rockhound hobby. If it keeps up, soon there will be many places marked "off limits" to the bottle hunter.

PAULINE LEE KING  
Fallon, Nev.

### Concerned Conservationist . . .

*To the Editor:* Why must *DESERT* take such an interest in politics and the money and land-grabbing habits of most people? Can't you just write about interesting areas to visit, and leave the land-grabbing real estate agencies out of it? You say you love the desert. Does that mean you want to see it irrigated so that more people can live out there? Chunk by chunk, I've seen more and more of the Southwest become a housing development.

On page 15 of your November issue is a thrilling picture of "High Desert Country" complete with Joshua trees. For a minute I thought the article would be entitled "Let's Preserve our Joshua Trees." But, no—it was "Your Personal Slice of the Public Domain." In other words "Let's Exploit the Desert." You, for one, should be preaching conservation of our deserts.

R. N. FRANCAVIGLIA  
San Mateo, Calif.

### Varmint Callers . . .

*To the Editor:* We read with dismay your February report on the pseudo-sportsmen ("Varmint Callers") who lure unsuspecting predators to their death with an artificial distress call.

If these people must hunt predators, let them do so in a fair manner: that is hand-to-hand.

We practically hand-feed a family of desert foxes in a certain locale. If ever the Varmint Callers invade this territory, they will be greeted with some well-aimed lead.

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**MONTICELLO, UTAH**



# Desert

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Volume 26

Number 4

APRIL, 1963

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Andre DeDienes, one of Hollywood's top photographers (he specializes in glamor girl still shots) brings us a delicate picture of Monument Valley. "As for this photo," writes DeDienes, "what else can I say except that Monument Valley is one of the wonders of the world—and so easy to visit since its main road is now paved."

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CATARACT CANYON OF THE COLORADO RIVER. Photo by Parker Hamilton.

*WE ALL DREAM* of far-away places where the only sights are those of a land untouched by the hand of man, where the only sounds are the murmurings of nature, where the only reality is a pure and artless man-to-earth relationship. To survive in today's complex urban society, man must do more than dream—he must go into such places where the spirit can be recharged. Happily, the wilderness wonderland of southern Utah is less than two-days driving distance for 80 percent of the people who will read this magazine. And a southern Utah vacation is within range of every pocketbook. We urge you to "shop" for the particular wilderness outing that best suits your taste from the various guide service, guest ranch, and chamber of commerce advertisements appearing in this magazine. *DESERT* unqualifyingly recommends every one of these dedicated and sincere private entrepreneurs and friendly communities to you. From one Utah visit will spring lifetime friendships for both the land and its people.

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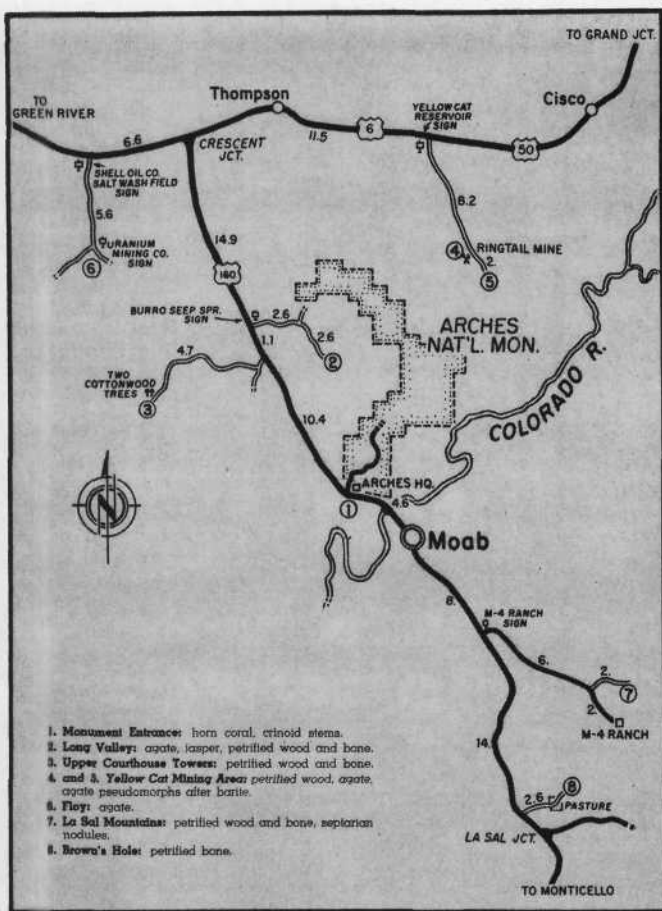
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# UTAH BONANZAS



## ROCKHOUNDING IN THE CANYONLANDS

By **ROSS and MAXINE MUSSELMAN**  
*Musselman's Rock Shop, Moab*

THE DOOR opens and in comes another rockhound. He is easy to spot . . . a gleam in his eye, a slight stoop in his shoulders, a friendly grin (rockhounds are always friendly).

They come by camper, by jeep, by limousine, by family car, by bus. Their first question is always, "Where can we find rocks?" Moab lies in a deep valley almost surrounded by 1000-foot cliffs, so rocks are no problem, but these people are fussy. They want certain kinds of rocks . . . cutting material or specimens worthy of a display case.

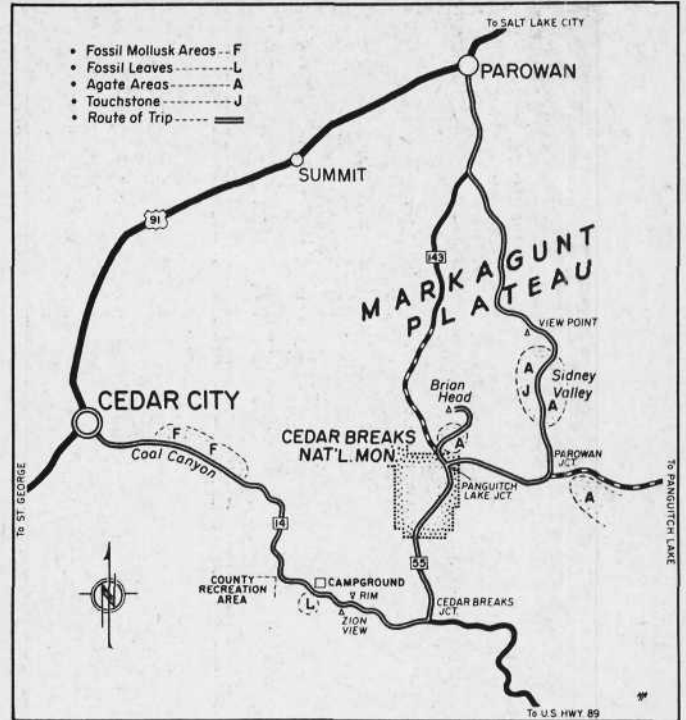
If they are camping, we tell them to pull into the back 40, and then come in and talk it over. The Moab Chamber of Commerce, our rock shop and the local Points and Pebbles Club work together to be of special assistance to rockhounds. Information is freely given concerning collecting areas. The Canyonlands is a vast country. Much of it virgin territory for rock collectors. It is in the main relatively untouched, some of it is

entirely unexplored. Only a few spots have been thoroughly worked over by rapacious commercial interests.

The Points and Pebbles Club has a special committee to give guide service to visiting rock clubs. Club officials can write to the Moab Club, and arrangements will be made for guided field trips.

All of the rock locations indicated on the map above are on public domain and open to collecting. However, in the Yellow Cat and Floy areas, there are working mines and oil properties which should not be trespassed upon. These are plain to see and no effort has been made to pinpoint them on the map. Usually permission may be obtained to search dumps at mines which are not abandoned, but snatching a few samples from a stock pile in frowned upon in uranium country. Here, as in all collecting areas, common sense and courtesy are all that are required to see the rockhound through.

*continued on page 37*



## MARKAGUNT FOSSILS AND AGATES

By **PARLEY DALLEY**  
*The Rock Club, Cedar City*

THIS TRIP begins at Cedar City. The route follows Highway 14 to the brink of the Markagunt Plateau, crosses the plateau to the head of the middle fork of Parowan Canyon and on to Parowan. Every mile of the route is packed with so much of interest as well as scenic beauty that it may be likened to a corridor through a great museum of natural history with all the exhibits in place.

This trip may be taken as a whole or in parts, depending on the time available and the special interests of the individual or group. Fossil mollusks and specimens of agate are still in abundance along the way to be obtained by short hikes from the highway.

In passing the portals of Coal Canyon going east, you literally enter the great land mass known as the Markagunt Plateau, the westernmost of Utah's high plateaus. On either side of the canyon mouth are two abutting

*continued on page 38*

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By DAN LEE



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The solar energy grill works in this simple way: point the mirrors toward the sun for a few minutes until the right temperature is reached (built-in heat indicator dial) and pop a tray of food into the oven. There is no fire or fuel to handle. Sole source of cooking stems from the collected, concentrated rays of the sun.

Here is a sample of how long various meats take to cook: Hamburgers, franks, and fish, 15 to 20 minutes. Steaks and fillets, 20 to 25 minutes. Quartered chicken, 25 to 30 minutes. Temperature variations are possible by turning the Sundiner toward or away from the sun. The advantage of the Sundiner is that it can be used as a safe substitute for a fuel-fired stove on beaches, parks, decks of boats, and other restricted areas. Carrying handles are standard. The price is \$29.95. From Sundiner, Carmer Industries, Inc., 1319 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 15, Calif.

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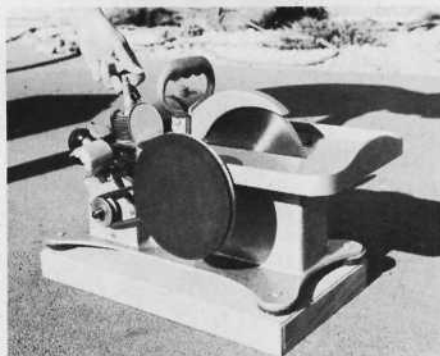
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gine, table cutting blade, and polishing wheel, is only 16 pounds. A built-on carrying handle makes transportation easy. My guess is that for the hobbyist who doesn't want to lug home hundreds of pounds of worthless specimens, the new Star Field Saw would make a good tool. With it, you can sample the best rocks in the field. Make sure they're worth toting home. Fuel consumption should be about a pint per hour of running time. Priced at \$129.50, from: Star Portable Field Saw, P. O. Box 702, 4010 So. 8th, Moorehead, Minnesota.



### Handy Map Measurer—

This new pencil-shaped item looks very practical for those who frequently use road maps, sea charts, or airline charts. In one end is a marking pencil; in the other, a tiny wheel that calibrates distances. Here's how it works: First, lay the transparent plastic over your map. Trace your route with the marker end of pencil. Reverse the pencil and run the tiny roller wheel along your route. Take a reading where the indicator stops, match it to the scale on your map and you instantly learn the total mileage to your destination. Called the Radix Map Measurer, the device is available in miles, or kilometers. The price is a low \$1.95. From Radix Co. of America, Box 584, Great Neck, N. Y.

### Bicycle Carrier—

The new Bike-Toter is a carrying stand that clamps to the rear of your car or truck bumper, securing your bicycle rigidly in place while traveling. Total weight of the Bike Toter is less than 9 pounds. A handy accessory for those who like to take along a bicycle on those desert vacations. Price not announced. Available from Bike Toter, 621 Montana Ave., Santa Monica, Calif. ///



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BY FAMILY CAR

# ROADSIDE GEOLOGY in TEXTBOOK COUNTRY

By EUGENE D. FOUSHEE



THE AUTHOR SHOWS HIS DAUGHTER, MARY BETH, THE FINE POINTS OF UTAH'S GEOLOGY

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Gene Foushee, owner-operator of the Recapture Court Motel in Bluff, is a graduate in geology from the University of North Carolina. Recently, as part of his motel operation, he secured a franchise to operate guided tours in southeastern Utah.

**S**OUTHEASTERN UTAH's landscape is positively indecent! It lies naked—devoid of the usual "clothing" of soil, grasses, and trees worn by more discreet parts of the earth's crust. But, the advantage is this: here in our country the layered crust of the earth is bent, broken and clearly exposed for all to climb over, take pictures of, and marvel over. Here you can "read" the story of creation.

It was not earth-shattering cataclysmic convulsions that made the deep ragged canyons of the Colorado Plateau. It was orderly processes of nature—running water, wind. And it was not so much a matter of destruction—the cutting-down of mountains—as it was of construction—depositing formations one atop the other.

Happily, this same erosion has cut through the layers, exposing them to view, giving the world its grandest cross-section of geologic time. The 150 miles from Monument Valley to Arches National Monument is truly "geology textbook" country. As you drive northward, you enter and re-enter various layers of the gigantic sandstone plateau that is Southeastern Utah.

*A. (Initial is keyed to map at right.)* At the start of your trip are the bold monuments of Monument Valley, which are composed of De Chelly sandstone. The thin veneer across the top of the buttes is Moencopi shale and Shinarump sandstone. Harry Goulding's Lodge and the Monument Valley Tribal Park headquarters are located below the DeChelly sandstone in the Organ Rock shales. (My wife calls it "red dirt.") From the headquarters observatory one can see the pinker colors in the washes in the valley to the east. The pink sandy rock is the Cedar Mesa sandstone, which is poorly represented here, but which forms the Cedar Mesa Plateau north of Mexican Hat, as well as the weird erosional features of the Needles country. Comb Ridge can be seen far to the east.

*B. Halgaito* (Navajo: "valley of white water") Wash runs through a broad valley at about Milepost 13 (13 miles from the Arizona line). This is the type location (a "type location" is that area where a formation or member of a formation was first recognized and studied; usually the formation or member is named after the

location) for the Halgaito member of the Cutler formation. Most all the red siltstones and clays that are visible in this area are part of the Halgaito. Douglas Mesa, capped with Cedar Mesa sandstone, is seen to the west. The hill going out on the east is Rico limestone. For the next 25 miles, the highway closely follows the contact between Halgaito (the upper) and Rico (the lower) formations.

*C.* Three-quarters of a mile beyond Milepost 18, and 200 feet off the road, you have a perfect view of a classic igneous plug, Alhambra Rock, with two dikes radiating from it. It must be remembered that when the plug and dikes were slowly oozing their way upward from the molten rock below, the level we see today was deeply buried in the overlying formations. Perhaps the plug never reached the surface. If it had, it would have been a volcano. Rico limestone surrounds the plug.

*D.* The Texas Zinc Uranium Mill is located in the colorful red clays of the Halgaito. The settlement of Mexican Hat is in the upper part of the Rico. The yellow splattered on the face of the cliff at the north end of the San Juan River bridge is not a sulfur deposit. It is all that remains of a runaway truck that was loaded with sulfur.

*E.* I strongly recommend that you drive the 15 miles from Utah 47 to Muley Point. Although half of that distance is gravel road, the tremendous view is worth every bump on the road. Muley Point, from atop the Cedar Mesa sandstone, looks down into the Goosenecks of the San Juan River, looks into Monument Valley to the south, and surveys all of the Rico-capped plains across which the San Juan has cut. The world-famous Goosenecks are a classic example of incised meanders.

*F.* From Mileposts 27 to 28 are good views of the Mexican Hat syncline formations as they bend upward and become part of the Raplee anticline. (Folds in the surface of the earth rock can occur when these layers are subjected to pressure from the sides, much like a stack of rugs would wrinkle if pressure were applied from one side; the crests of these wrinkles are "anticlines," and troughs between the wrinkles are "synclines.") The nearby walls and monuments, as well as the monuments of the Valley of the Gods and the





GOOSENECKS OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER, AS SEEN FROM MULEY POINT. Photo by Frank Jensen.

Mexican Hat rock, consist of Halgaito capped with Cedar Mesa sandstone. The Mexican Hat syncline produced the first commercial oil in Utah in 1907. The geologic structure was so clearly seen that it naturally invited drilling.

G. The highway loops over and around the north-end of the Raplee anticline, working its way to the crest of the Lime Ridge anticline at Milepost 35. For the next few miles the highway runs exactly on the gray Rico limestone which forms the curving surface of the Lime Ridge anticline. There are few places it is possible to see such a perfect example of an anticline, and here it is possible to drive over the top of one! My wife says: "Big deal!"

There are several parking places between Mileposts 38 and 39 where you can stop to see the red Halgaito and the pinkish Cedar Mesa sandstone, which suddenly isn't sandstone! The rocks are mostly gypsum! Just a few miles to the northwest is the Cedar Mesa sandstone forming the cliffs over the Halgaito, but here where the sandstone cliffs should be, there are only the rounded humps composed mostly of gypsum. Here is another dramatic textbook example of what is known as a facies change. This means that at the same time and on the same level, two different formations were being deposited—in this case, sandstone in one area, and a few miles away, gypsum.

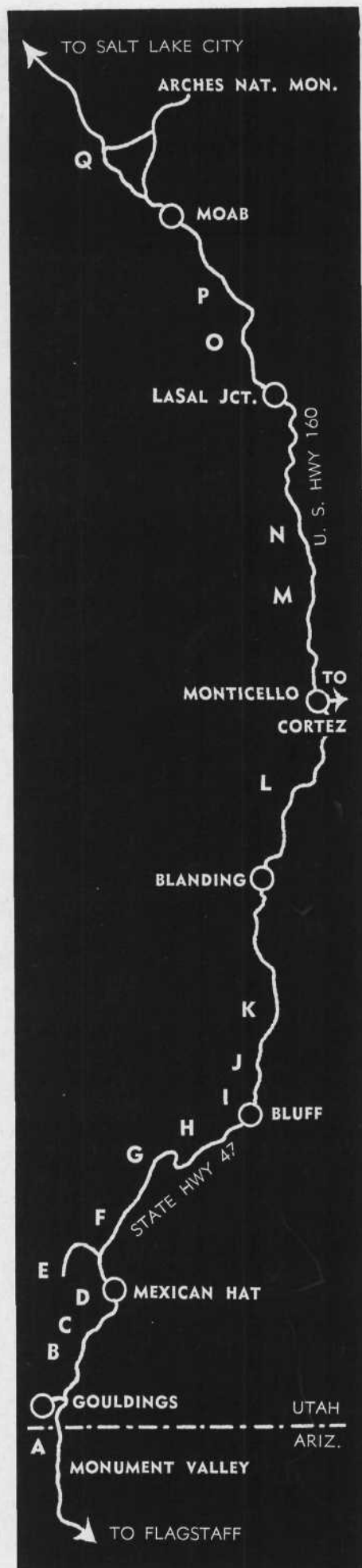
Rockhounds will probably enjoy finding the white and rose-colored chert as well as honeycomb gypsum in this area. Milepost 39 very closely marks the top of the Cedar Mesa gypsum facies.

The massive DeChelly sandstone of Monument Valley has thinned to a point where it can only be found here with considerable search. Comb Wash and the great Comb Ridge monocline (*a monocline is a bending of the earth's crust in only one direction*) are immediately to the east. The colorful Chinle shale of Painted Desert fame forms most of the Comb Wash. This cliff face is a formidable barrier extending 80 miles from the Abajo Mountains south to Kayenta. It is breached only by the San Juan River and Chinle Wash and is crossed in four places by roads.

H. Three-quarters of a mile past Milepost 39, through the notch on the ridge, is a good parking place. From here, a 200-foot climb will put you on top of the ridge. Don't forget to take a camera! Significant geologic features can be pointed-out for hours from this vantage point.

The face of Comb Ridge is Wingate sandstone. The white sandstone on the back (east) side is Navajo, the same sandstone familiar to Glen Canyon river travelers and visitors to Zion National Park. The Kayenta formation is an indistinctive sand-

continued on page 39





II WITH A GUIDE

# DESERT GOTHIC

By JOYCE MUENCH  
Photos by Josef Muench

I USED to feel as Gertrude Stein did of a rose; that a Desert is a Desert is a Desert. After having a glimpse into earth's past, I am no longer so sure. Time and time again, there have been great seas, sometimes of fresh water, and then again, salt, where the deserts now spread. Desert mountains have been transitory as well; rising and disappearing like mushroom growths. Some, lately risen, are still growing, while others sink out of sight, if we can believe the geologist, although the movements are too slow to be measured by the naked eye. It may be only by chance that we have our present ranges, trapping moisture shipped in from the Pacific, to be dropped on wildflower beds, foothills, spreading plateaus and forested slopes. Will the West, one asks, be without these rain-makers in some future geologic day, and so become one vast, arid waste?

Now the Cathedral Valleys of south-central Utah are true desert and were so, way back when. Their special landscaping effects were started with layers of windblown sand, pressed down and hardened into stone, cover-

ed by more layers, and finally dug-up to be shaped, fairly recently, into massive stone edifices. They are accessible today by a journey back into Time, through scenery well calculated to prepare the visitor for some unusual climax.

The Cathedrals aren't on maps of just a few years ago. Even on the latest maps they are indicated rather vaguely as "Cathedral Valley." Along with other placenames, like the *Goblins*, *Circle Cliffs*, *Standing Rock Basin*, they have appeared suddenly, as though some new process were being used to bring out invisible writing. New roads, and pavement on older ones, manage to keep ahead of the cartographers in this great 20,000 square mile corner of the state, which looked very blank until recently.

The through road, Utah State 24, is now paved for all but a 15-mile stretch, from its western terminus at Sigurd, on U.S. 89, to the eastern end of U.S. 6 and 50, near the town of Greenriver. By this time, the final bit may be black-topped, providing an all-weather route — 168 miles of amazing variety. I don't know really, of a comparable stretch, mixing mountains and desert, plateaus and canyons, spiced with little towns and wild open miles. There is even a national monument — the Capitol Reef — through which it runs, and every so often, there is a junction leading off into some totally different world, like the Cathedrals, where you must have a special car and a desert-wise driver-guide. Worthen Jackson, in the mountain valley town of Fremont, is one, and Lurt and Alice Knee, at the Sleeping Rainbow Guest Ranch are licensed guides.

Last August, Alice Knee was driving the big station wagon which carried a party of us via the lower desert approach. Armed with just a notebook, I watched three other guests at the Ranch through the perilous task of getting their equipment and themselves into the roomy vehicle. While half of my mind was on the fancy that they looked rather like science-fiction creatures, misshapen by the bulges which cameras and tripods, gadget-bags, and field glasses distort the human figure, the other half was on the day ahead of us. It was several years since I had seen the Cathedrals. Would they be as wonderful as I remembered, or had I let the rose-tinted spectacles of memory exaggerate? Once the car was rolling down the hill where the lodge and

motel units look off to the Henry Mountains, I was caught up again in the dazzling color, the overpowering size and boldness of the landscape.

A few miles east of the Capitol Reef National Monument boundary, on former State 24, Alice stopped the car. We all climbed out to look at the oyster beds lying along the shoulder of the road. The elevation here is close to a mile above the distant ocean, yet we were confronted by banks made up of thousands upon thousands of discarded saltwater sea shells. Their presence hints broadly at the vast ages during which this now arid landscape must have been under some ancient sea.

Within sight of the stranded crustaceans, the still-growing Henry Mountains push massive peaks above the Caineville Mesas, level shelves arranged on either side of the Fremont River.

As we turned north onto a four-wheel-drive road, our driver pointed out Factory Butte, appearing off to the right, a great gray ghost in The Dead World. Companion to the Caineville Mesas, but a separate entity, 1500 feet high, it wears the same flowing skirts, wrinkled with talus from the heavy Mesa Verde Sandstone capping. Years ago, a visitor named it for the resemblance to a factory he had worked in at Provo. If he hadn't called it that, someone else would have. Smoke-grimed, bulky and solid, it is the epitome of all factories, seen from this western side. On the south, Factory Butte's pediment pinches out to scarcely door-width, and from the north is no more than a finger-thick column, topping the dusty slopes. Below, soft hills of the lifeless gray are ferruled with arrowstraight furrows in a spacious badland, without a stick of vegetation.

Moving on, we could feel the car wheels sink into the soft banded clay of the Pinto Hills over which we now climbed, leaving deep ruts in purple and green, gray and white ripples. They repeat, in a different key, the more ancient Chinle colors of the Sleeping Rainbow, for which the whole region is named. Nature seems to be trying to outdo herself in being different at every turn of the road. An artist in our party exclaimed that he felt we were riffing through the pages of a book demonstrating various techniques of the painter. The Dead World was a

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** The writer-photographer team of Joyce and Josef Muench is well-known to readers of this publication. Residents of Santa Barbara, the Muenchs have traveled the length and breadth of the West, capturing in words and pictures the delicate beauty of the land.





TEMPLES OF THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS IN THE LOWER CATHEDRALS

charcoal drawing, the Pinto Hills in pastel watercolor. Later he pointed out a landscape among the cathedrals done boldly with knife-strokes, while another resembled a sharp-cut woodblock, reproduced in color.

Anything as large as a cathedral should be hard to hide, but nature has done it. Until we came to a cliff-edge, there was no hint of them, yet I knew there were not just one, but three whole complexes of them, tucked away in separate chambers, down in the airy well-lighted "basement" of Thousand Lake Mountain.

The first "room" is the South Desert, with The Steeple standing like one of Italy's medieval campaniles. From the sun-baked pavement of its Piazza to the blunted spire-tip, the formation must measure 800 feet. When the Knees took us there the very first time, long before a road had been bulldozed out, we had reached it only after hunting a way

through confusing and narrow canyon corridors. Joe caught a pale young moon peering over the tower's shoulder, as the late sunlight spread a rich patina on the pinkish ribs, almost as though The Steeple were blushing, for this was probably the first time it had ever posed for a portrait.

Nowadays, the dugway follows down into the basin so that the facade of the nearby Cathedral may be seen in proper relationship of church and tower. I had not over-painted, in recollection, the aesthetic pleasure of viewing those strong vertical lines, the saturated colors, or the wonderful shaping of the stone mass.

From the South Desert, we drove up the dugway to the Lower Cathedrals—to the Temples of the Sun, Moon and Stars, each big enough to make our car and its occupants very small. Cliffs around these monoliths are deeply scored, showing clearly

the slow deliberate formation, and their consequent erosion. I rather felt, as we heard each one named, that I was back in the Old World and, Baedeker in hand, marveling at European masterpieces of architecture.

This irregular basin has many embayments and alcoves, as well as one especially huge sand dune, covered with colorful rocks—portable bits of the rainbow. A 15-foot hill of gypsum, unlike anything even Alice knew of elsewhere, is made up of thousands of tiny pieces of clear "isinglas" window panes, jumbled together and sparkling when the sun strikes its many facets.

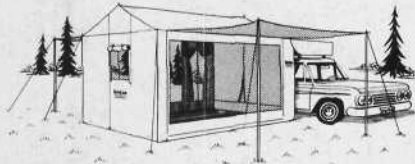
It is in the third basin where the Upper Cathedrals stand, that the resemblance to churches is the most apparent. A long line, called The Walls of Jericho, surges through the valley, which is 500 feet higher than its neighbor. Fluted and domed in

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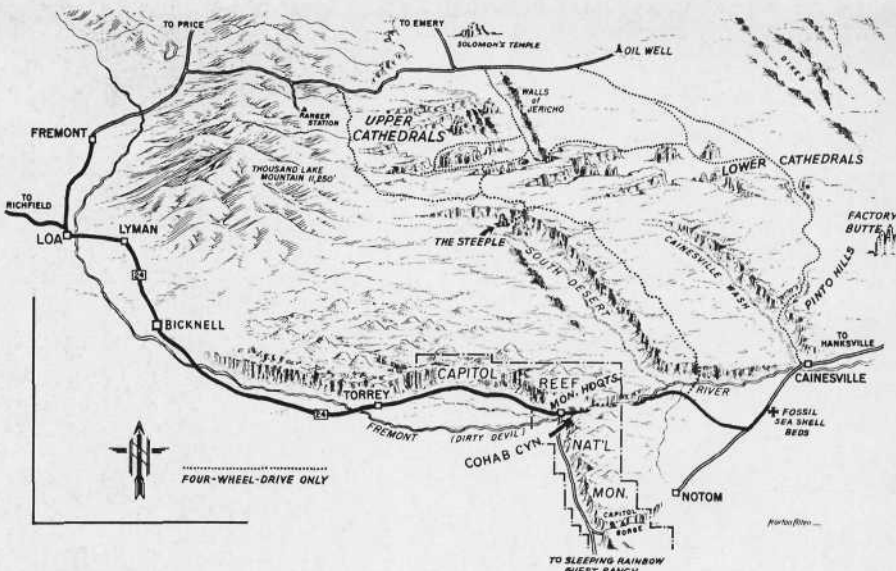
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green, like tarnished copper, they were ages in the building. Ornate weathering has shaped statues set in niches. Filligree decorations adorn every exposed cornice. Robed saints, hooded monks, angels and cherabims are not hard to find in the confusion of forms. The very makeup of the stone lends itself to the slightly rounded Gothic Arch, stylized representation of human fingers, tips touching in the reverent pose of prayer.

True, the elongated "doors," carved in vertical embroidery from roof to basin floor, will never open to admit a congregation, but there are alcoves, roomy chapels without roofs, through which desert incense drifts, a pungent fragrance burned by the sun in censors of desert vegetation. In these quiet spots, meditation seems natural. The silence is complete save for the soft organ music of wind on fretted sandstone pipes. These cathedrals, like any others, are never quite finished. The abrasive tools of sand-edged wind work continuously, shaping new figures, refining details of old ones. Come back again in a thousand years, and you may find the whole style changed. More modern lines, already foreshadowed in formations behind the Walls of Jericho, may then have been imposed upon the Gothic.

As the afternoon began to wane, we started up, over the shoulders of Thousand Lake Mountain, exchanging with bewildering rapidity the aroma of pine for the sun-baked fragrance of the desert, and lifting to 9000 feet of elevation for great panoramas among highland lakes and grassy platforms, high above the desert basins. We could see the whole pattern of Cathedral walls, the dark

veining of dykes, the play of colors spread below.

Almost too soon, our little forest road turned its back on the magnificent outlook and dove into groves of aspens, meadows edged with spruce and pine, and joined State

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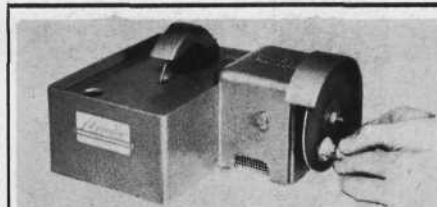
72 which winds finally into the high valley of the Fremont River. Then pavement of State 24 ticks off each of the comfortable, friendly little Mormon communities of Loa, Bicknell and Torrey, and into the Capitol Reef National Monument.

It wasn't until we were sitting in post-prandial leisure in the Sleeping Rainbow Guest Ranch with Lurt and Alice answering some of the ques-

tions visitors always save up for this time, that I thought again of my early morning fear of disappointment. Not having mentioned it earlier, I didn't need now to retract, except to myself. I thought again of Gertrude Stein and wondered if she, confronted by the amazing country we had just seen, might not have given us a new pronouncement. Is a desert a desert or the yesterday or tomorrow of a mountain? ///



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### III ON A "TAG-ALONG" TRIP

# of RUINS, ROCKS, and ROUTES

By CHORAL PEPPER

Photos by Jack Pepper

"LET'S DO it on our own," said we, fully cognizant of an agonizing three days and nights endured by a friend who had once been lost in this desolate terrain. "We'll just follow the trails as marked on the map and see what turns up."

We knew little about the wide country that is Monument Valley. Although we'd traveled its new thoroughfare before, we weren't aware that its spur roads had never been reliably nor fully mapped. But we found out.

Cutting from the highway in our new International Scout, Jack and I with our 11-year-old son, Trent, barreled through scarlet sands, shallow streams and boulder-strewn crevices. At twilight we were still barreling. The scenery was spectacular, but where were the ancient ruins and rockhounding thrills we'd anticipated?

Where washes were indicated on the map, we found mountains. Where we hoped to discover ruins, terrain

grew thick with juniper. The day had rewarding moments, of course. Merely being in this grand country is a bonus. But even though we returned to our motel at Mexican Hat without getting lost, as an adventure the day was a disappointment.

The next morning, we tried a different tack. Driving our own vehicle, we tagged-along behind a Hunt Brothers guided tour heading south and east to Poncho House Ruin. The Hunts—Jim and Emery—were born and raised on their father's early trading post in the valley below Poncho House, and Navajo is their second language. Jim owns and operates the San Juan Motel and Trading Post at Mexican Hat, and together with his brother conducts a series of half-day and full-day tours throughout this country.

The "tag-along" idea was new to both of us—but it has obvious potential. Many people have four-wheel-drive vehicles and the urge to poke around in the more remote corners of southern Utah; but are not familiar with the country. They prefer to travel in their own cars, but are wise enough to realize that in this red-rock mazeland, getting lost likely will have serious consequences.

Jim and Emery Hunt are Southern Utah boosters first, businessmen second. What would they charge for a tag-along trip? Nothing! "As long as the tourists aren't putting us out of our way, and as long as they are willing to go where we go, stop when we stop, and return when we return, we see no reason to charge them," Jim stated. "They would be responsible for their own lunch."

Not only was this the Hunts' first tag-along tour, it was the first outing for their newly acquired "Desert Rat," a gas-powered platform-on-wheels that can crawl and claw its way over virtually any terrain. The Hunts are planning to use the Desert Rat to extend the range of their motorized explorations and to ferry passengers to such attractions as Poncho House Ruins from the point where the jeeps must be parked.

After traveling a few miles through land which appeared endlessly flat and rocky, a slight rise suddenly exposed us to the marvels of Monument Valley. Like ghostly skylines of some ancient era, the fantastic buttes, monoliths, and mesas exploded

from the flat red earth. Beyond a panoramic view of the King on His Throne, Brigham's Tomb, and towering Eagle Rock, distant outlines of the Twin Mitten Buttes wavered in the clear dry air. Our caravan stopped for a photo from this spectacular vantage, and then turned left onto a vaguely tread-marked trail.

I had hoped to record the route to Garnet Ridge for *DESERT* readers, but after fording a stream, pushing through jungles of reed along two dry river beds and jolting over miles of arroyos which all looked alike, I decided that guiding is for the Indians . . . or the Hunts.

At last Jim stopped his car and walked back to ours. "See Old Mule Ears up ahead?" He indicated a distant pair of cliffs. "That's the only landmark I had to go by when I began looking for Garnet Ridge."

Some years ago a family of Navajos brought a handful of garnets to Jim's trading post and asked if they were worth anything. Jim didn't have any particular market for them, but he knew enough about garnets to recognize the superior color and quality of these. More than the garnets themselves, however, he was interested in learning where they were found. Each time he asked, the answers were evasive. Because life moves slowly in Navajoland, Jim took his time, trading the Indians merchandise for the garnets they brought, and gradually piecing together bits of information. At last the key word came: Old Mule Ears!

Scouting the area in his jeep, Jim searched for the type of igneous terrain likely to produce these gemstones. Even then, the glittering red garnets almost eluded him. Mixed into a melee of marble, flint, and something that floresces like williamite, the tiny garnets are difficult to isolate unless one explores on hands and knees.

Although this area is a rich center for oil and uranium, its past inaccessibility and isolation have left it unexploited by rockhounds. We found quantities of petrified wood, geodes with diamondlike surprises inside, and beautiful nodules. Mineral exploration is currently criss-crossing the terrain with myriads of jeep trails, so those who venture forth alone are advised that in this country it isn't

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** This is Choral Pepper's third article for *DESERT*, having authored "Three Sketches of Eastern Nevada" in our Sept. '62 issue, and "Scuba Diving in Lake Mead" in Dec. '62. Mrs. Pepper is a resident of Las Vegas, Nev.





THE AUTHOR EXAMINES HANDFUL OF GARNETS

PONCHO HOUSE RUIN



safe to depend upon your own tracks to act as an Ariadne's thread back to safety.

After filling our pockets with garnets, we cut a new trail toward Chinle Wash, stopping enroute for a gourmet campfire feast produced by Emery. To add local color to his incomparable Dutch Oven cookery, we defied an age-old Navajo superstition by camping near an abandoned hogan.

Barren of its clay covering, only the naked logs of the hogan's foundation remained as an unwritten epitaph to its long-departed soul. To the Navajos it was *chen-dee*—"jinxed." Navajos fear the dead. Should a family member perish in his hogan, a hole is pushed through the north wall to emit the bad spirit, and then the hogan is vacated forevermore. Even its precious wood foundation is never used again.

After lunch we inaugurated the Desert Rat. Terrifying at first, with five of us piled aboard where only two should ride, we clung to one another as the machine's powerful tires pounded over brush and boulder. At the edge of the plateau overlooking Chinle Wash, Jim ordered us off and, to our amazement, simply pushed the machine over the cliff. Skillfully it scaled the vertical wall, landing right-side-up in the wash below. Down we scrambled to reclaim our seats, and zip swiftly through marsh and stream to Poncho House Ruin.

Discovered by the Wetherill brothers in 1892, Poncho House's 160 rooms stretch for 537 feet along its

ledge. This is one of the oldest—but least visited—ruins in the Four Corners region. Until modern vandals corrupted it, it was in a fine state of preservation, but even so, one section located on a separate and higher ledge has only been reached by one white man and appears in excellent condition.

Little is known of Poncho House, and practically nothing has been published about it. Its masonry consists of irregularly shaped stones set into great masses of inaccurately coursed adobe mortar. It appears to considerably pre-date the renowned Betatkin located near Kayenta on the western edge of Monument Valley. Potsherds from the early developmental-Pueblo phase as well as black-on-white and red-on-black typical of later periods indicate that Poncho House was occupied through many generations. It is believed to have been constructed around 600 A.D.

Painted high on the cliff wall are two enormous concentric designs, one white, the other red, resembling bull's eyes. We've seen this design reproduced on Pueblo I pottery of the Anasazi. The wall was also embellished with stylized figures of dancing men—all over-sized and conspicuously decorative rather than meaningful in the order of petroglyphs.

Why the peace-loving early tribes who occupied this area for so long suddenly disappeared around 1200 A.D. is an archeological mystery. Some believe it due to a 20-year drouth, while others imagine that marauding Navajos and their rela-

tives, the Apaches, arrived about that time and drove the puebloans from their homes. Those who argue against the latter point out that the Anasazi (Navajo name for these early Basketmaker-Pueblo Indians) with their established agriculture, high standard of living and knowledge of the country, must surely have been in finer combat condition than the infiltrating strangers.

A consideration which escapes many is that of inbreeding. Before the Anasazi moved into cliffhouses (a move which indicates fear of attack) they hunted and intermingled with neighboring clans. After several hundred years of cliff-dwelling, however, the results of inevitable inbreeding could well have produced a greatly inferior breed of people.

By whatever means, peaceful or not, the fact that many ancient Pueblo myths are incorporated into the Navajo religion suggests a close relationship somewhere in the past. As far as strife is concerned, discord could have developed among the Anasazi peoples to such an extent that they finally extirpated themselves.

The three days we planned for our vacation in Monument Valley—not nearly enough time—proved one thing beyond a doubt. Those who tour this country for the sheer pleasure of its magnificent scenery miss the climatic act. The best scenes lie beyond the Navajos' newly paved route—down in the valleys haunted with vestiges of extinct peoples whose blood throbbed in veins as vital as ours, but long ago. ///

# Lovely, Lonely Land

□ As anyone familiar with southern Utah will agree, what sets the region apart from the rest of the world is its incredible landscape—50,000 square miles of forested plateaus, mountain-rimmed valleys, deserts, canyons, cliffs, rivers, lakes, island ranges, and countless smaller formations eroded into every conceivable shape and painted in all the colors of the rainbow □ To know Southern Utah is to fall in love with it, for it has a special charm that casts a unique spell □ This article, written especially for DESERT readers by the assistant director of the Utah Tourist and Publicity Council, details the ways and means of seeing and enjoying this unconquerable corner of the Western frontier □

By **WARD J. ROYLANCE**

**A**S MORE people visit Zion, Bryce Canyon and Grand Canyon, and come to love the country typified by these easily-accessible and well-advertised attractions, they become enchanted by that mysterious, hazy, beckoning land stretching away into the distance—the forested highlands towering high above Zion's rocky temples, the painted wilderness east of Bryce, the tier upon tier of multicolored cliffs rising northward in great steps from Grand Canyon.

They must answer the irresistible call of this strange land and discover its wonderful secrets for themselves. Few are ever disappointed with what they find.

In spite of the hundreds of thousands of visitors to Zion, Bryce, Arches, Capitol Reef, and Cedar Breaks, most of southern Utah remains a lonely land. Only slightly more than 100,000 people reside permanently in its 14 counties, and nearly all of them live in towns and cities near U.S. Highways 89 and 91. Probably 90% of southern Utah's 50,000 square miles is completely uninhabited except for the occasional livestock man or prospector.

This loneliness helps give the region its special charm. Every visitor feels almost as though he is a Colum-

bus voyaging through new lands. Few people want to change this primeval condition any more than is absolutely necessary—but change has come to southern Utah, and it will continue to come.

First, major access highways and roads are being improved. U.S. Highway 89 is being almost completely rebuilt from Kanab northward to Sanpete Valley. U.S. 91 (Interstate 15) is an excellent superhighway all the 730 miles from Los Angeles to Salt Lake City. New paved highways give access to Capitol Reef, Cedar Breaks, Glen Canyon Dam, Arches, and Monument Valley. Goblin Valley is only eight miles from a paved road.

On fairly good dirt roads, sedans can be driven across most of the plateaus and to Kodachrome Flats, Grosvenor Arch, San Rafael Swell, Dead Horse and Grandview points, Natural Bridges, Hole-in-the-Rock, Hovenweep, and into many other scenic areas—even to the edge of the Needles. With a pickup truck, the more adventurous can drive to Lands End, overlooking a vast expanse of the Canyonlands region, or into the Circle Cliffs.

A four-wheel-drive vehicle, of course, will reach to the more remote spots such as Land of Standing Rocks, the inner Needles, Salt Creek Canyon,

junction of the Green and Colorado, and Upheaval Dome. There are few outstanding attractions in southern Utah which cannot be reached in a wheeled vehicle today; the few exceptions to this rule include the deep side-canyons of the Green, Colorado, and San Juan rivers.

Other recent changes are Mission 66 improvements in facilities at national parks and monuments, where campgrounds are being expanded and renewed, visitor centers constructed, highways rebuilt. In the national forests, roads and camping facilities are being improved under the Operation Outdoors program.

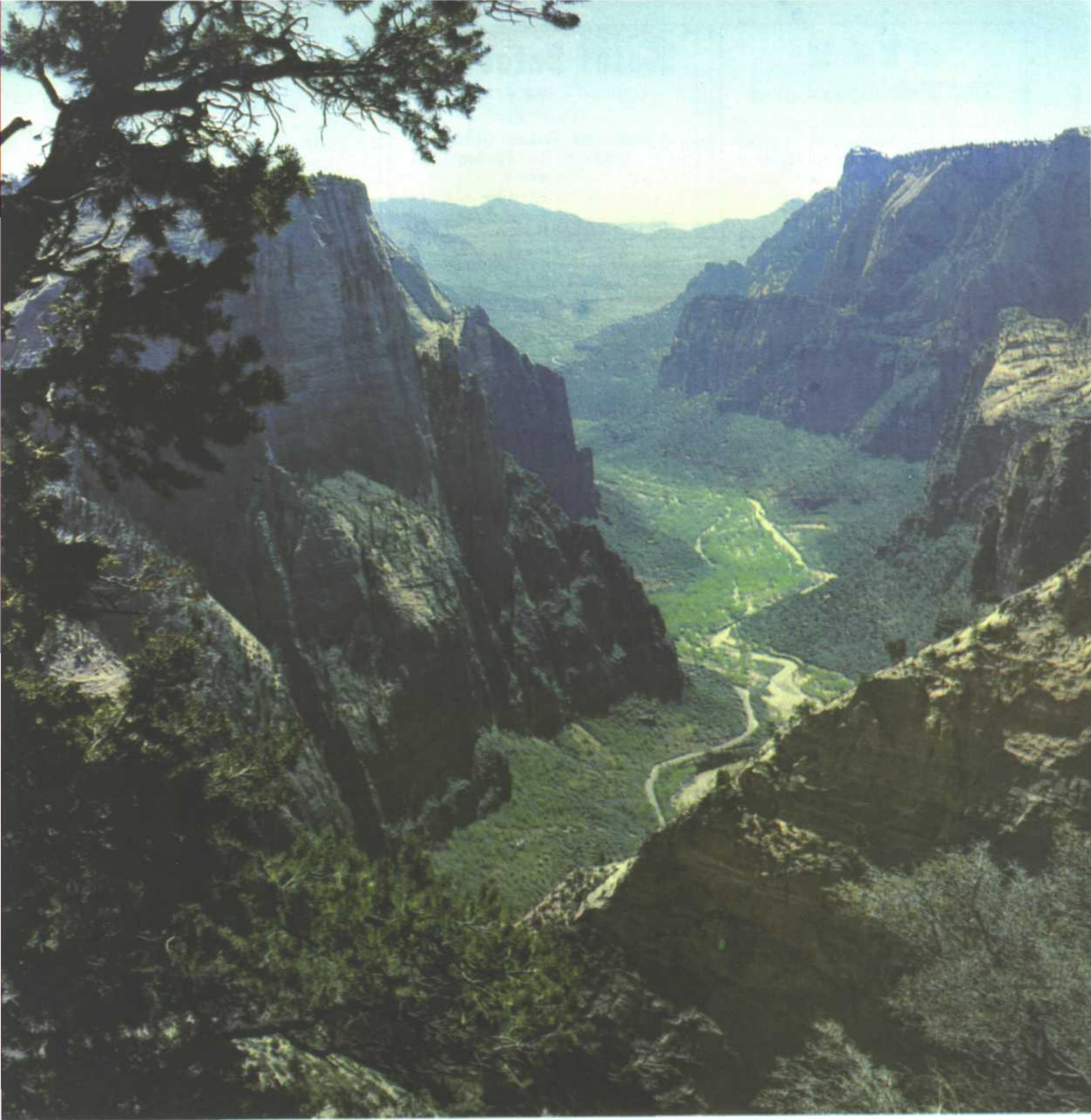
Utah's State Park & Recreation Commission is developing visitor facilities at a number of new state parks in southern Utah. Among these are Dixie State Park (Snow Canyon) near St. George; Dead Horse Point State Park near Moab; Green River State Park; Palisade State Park near Sterling; Brigham Young Home in St. George; and Jacob Hamblin Home at Santa Clara. Other state parks are in various stages of acquisition and planning.

Private enterprise improvements mainly are limited to the cities and towns where a number of new motels have been built and older ones modernized. There is still a sore lack of guest ranches and resorts in the area, though it does contain a few outstanding facilities of this type. Some of them offer high quality accommodations, others are not particularly noteworthy for their standards. Several guest ranches provide tour services in addition to meals and lodging.

One of the most notable trends in southern Utah travel is the great increase in boating on the Green and Colorado rivers. During the past decade, tens of thousands of boaters have traversed beautiful Glen Canyon, both downstream from Hite and upstream from Kane Creek (crossing of the Fathers). Boat traffic on this section of the Colorado is increasing rapidly every year and will reach astronomical totals as Lake Powell continues to rise behind Glen Canyon Dam.

In contrast, boating on the San Juan has been suspended temporarily because of water impoundment upstream at Navajo Dam. Until an arm of Lake Powell finally reaches





into that river's rugged gorge within the next year or two, boating on the San Juan probably will remain suspended.

The status of future boating on the lower Green, between Greeneriver City and the junction with the Colorado, is uncertain at this time because spring and summer water-

*Zion Canyon. The greatest single attraction in southern Utah, Zion National Park plays host each year to more than 600,000 visitors. While attendance at the park is growing rapidly, the visitor growth rate of lesser-known areas such as Capitol Reef and Arches national monuments is even more spectacular. Photo is by Weston and Jeanne Lee, from their recently published book, "Torrent in the Desert" (Northland Press, Flagstaff).*

flow will be determined by upstream control at Flaming Gorge Dam—and the amount of water to be released

there will depend on spring runoff. In 1962, during the Canyon Country Friendship Cruise (May) and River



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Marathon (June) more than 700 boats and 3000 boaters ran this section of the Green to the junction, then upstream on the Colorado to Moab. If conditions permit in 1963, (and there is hope that they will), it is likely that even more will participate in these notable events.

The great majority of visitors see southern Utah from the comfort of their private automobiles or from viewpoints within walking distance of a parking area. This applies to most persons visiting such popular attractions as Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Cedar Breaks, Glen Canyon Dam, Arches, and Monument Valley—all accessible by paved road. Eventually, within the next decade or so, most of the outstanding attractions in southern Utah will be reached via paved highways. But today some of them cannot—and many people, understandably, refuse to drive their expensive new cars off the pavement.

For these people, and for those who would rather let someone else do the driving, southern Utah offers a number of sightseeing alternatives. It is possible to take tours in large or small sightseeing buses, in four-wheel-drive vehicles, or in station wagons of various sizes. Besides vehicular tours, some guide services offer pack trips, hiking trips, boating trips, and scenic aerial flights.

Utah Parks Company features all-expense bus tours from Cedar City to Zion, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Cedar Breaks, with optional stop-over privileges. Regular tours range in length from two to five days, and prices from \$25 for the two-day tour to about \$80 for five days (including transportation, meals, and lodging). These tours may be arranged through travel agents everywhere. Connections can be made at Cedar City for bus, airline, and train service. Utah Parks tours are available generally from early June to early September.

Station wagon and jeep tours can be arranged to scores of out-of-the-way points of remarkable scenic interest. In recent years this type of tour has become extremely popular, and a dozen or so franchised guides conduct thousands of visitors each year into southern Utah's painted wilderness. Reservations should be made as far in advance as possible. Though the regular guided tour season ordinarily extends from May to October, it is possible to make special arrangements for other times.

These tours vary in length from a few hours to 10 days or two weeks, depending on individual arrangements and area to be visited. For ex-

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ample, a guest ranch near Capitol Reef offers a variety of one-day all-expense tours from base headquarters, traveling in large, comfortable station wagons; a person staying for a week at the ranch might take a different tour each day. Other operators offer wilderness adventure tours lasting up to 10 days or longer, during which the party might not meet another soul. Usually all camping equipment and food is furnished by the guide, with the customer bringing only his clothes, camera, and personal items. Passengers truly "rough-it"—cooking over open fires and sleeping out under the stars.

Most vehicle tours originate from guest ranches, lodges or motels, or from towns where lodging facilities are available.

Rates vary with different kinds of tours. For example, one-day tours by station wagon or small bus average about \$10 per person. Overnight camping tours by jeep usually cost \$25 per day per person, including food, camping equipment, transportation, and guide service. Some operators require a minimum of three or four in the party or an equivalent fare if fewer than that take the tour.

Arrangements can be made for pickup at convenient airports or railroad and highway stops, for persons who do not drive their own cars to the guide's base headquarters (which is usually on or near a paved road).

Example of jeep and station wagon tours include the following:

*From Monticello or Blanding:* To the Needles, Salt Creek, Elk Ridge, Hole-in-the-Rock (east side), Dead Horse and Grandview points, Standing Rocks, Capitol Reef, Monument Valley, Hovenweep, and other points in southeastern Utah.

*From Mexican Hat or Bluff:* To the Great Goosenecks, Valley (Garden) of the Gods, Poncho House Ruin, Four Corners, Natural Bridges, Mule Point, Monument Valley.

*From Moab:* To Dead Horse and Grandview points, Shafer Trail, Castle Valley, Fisher Towers, Arches National Monument, Colorado River Canyon, LaSal Mountains.

*From Capitol Reef and Fremont:* To Capitol Reef, Cathedral and Goblin Valleys, Henry Mountains, Standing Rocks, San Rafael Swell, Aquarius Plateau, Thousand Lake Mountain, Waterpocket Fold, Circle Cliffs, Hole-in-the-Rock, etc.

*From Gouldings (Monument Valley):* Monument Valley, Mystery

## COLOR PHOTO, FOLLOWING PAGE: GLEN CANYON DAM

PHOTOGRAPH BY DENNIS HOLMES

*In the early part of this year, the great dam in Glen Canyon began backing-up Colorado River water. Lake Powell—locked-in by fantastic redrock walls—will reach 186 miles upstream from the dam-site (see map on page 24), poking its watery fingers into a maze of remote and rugged sidecanyons, some of which have never been explored by man. In the next decade, the Upper Colorado will become one of the most heavily boated waterways in the nation.*



CAMPING AND BOATING AT FISH LAKE EAST OF RICHFIELD. Photo by Norman VanPelt.

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*From Panguitch:* To Capitol Reef, Escalante-Boulder country, Escalante River canyons, Hole-in-the-Rock, Goblin Valley, Cathedral Valley.

Utah is fortunate in the high quality of its southern Utah vehicle guides. They are all well qualified, dedicated, enthusiastic, honest individuals who love their work and the country in which they operate.

In 1963, a new lecture tour service is being inaugurated by the well-known Gray Line Motor Tours system. Starting in early May, deluxe buses will leave Salt Lake City each week on six-day all-expense circle tours that will include a large number of the most outstanding attractions in southern Utah. In order of

travel from Salt Lake, points to be visited include Greenriver, Dead Horse Point, Moab, Arches, Castle Valley and Fisher Towers, Monticello, Natural Bridges, Goosenecks, Mexican Hat, Monument Valley (a day's tour with Goulding), Kayenta, Glen Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Escalante, Aquarius Plateau, Capitol Reef (a day's tour of the area with Sleeping Rainbow Tours), and return to Salt Lake City. Total length of the entire tour amounts to 1250 miles.

Southern Utah's dozen vehicle tour operators are matched in number by the area's river guides, who conduct many hundreds of adventurous tourists through Utah's spectacular canyons every year.

River tours, like the jeep-bus-station wagon tours, offer real adventure in magnificent red-rock country — a thrilling experience available in few

other places, and one that is remembered throughout a lifetime. River guides are similar to their fellow vehicle guides in being an especially dedicated, experienced group who are proud of their chosen calling.

The nature of river tours is changing at the present time, because of Lake Powell behind Glen Canyon Dam. Heretofore, large rubber rafts carried the greatest number of travelers through Glen Canyon, floating slowly along with the shallow current, permitting leisurely enjoyment of the country's grandeur. Soon there will be little or no current in the canyon. Water will be deep and clear, and different boating craft will enter the picture. It is too early to say exactly what the ultimate will be, but undoubtedly a wide variety of boats and rafts will continue to be used.

# Memories of the Pagahrit

By ALBERT R. LYMAN

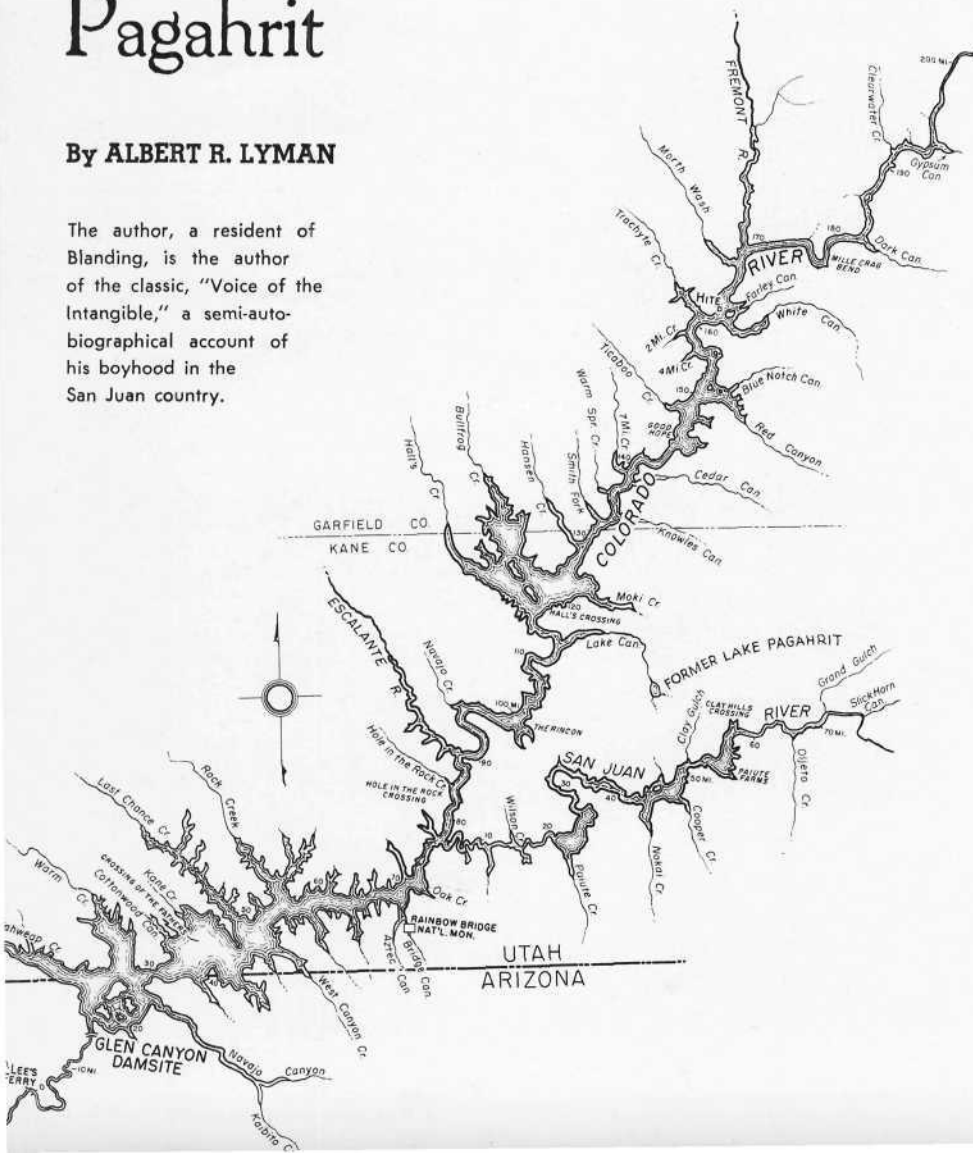
The author, a resident of Blanding, is the author of the classic, "Voice of the Intangible," a semi-autobiographical account of his boyhood in the San Juan country.

THE great lake being formed behind Glen Canyon Dam is by no means the first or only body of fresh water in the redrock country of southern Utah. In December, 1879, four Mormon scouts, Lemuel H. Redd Sr., George Hobbs, George Morrill and George Sevey, discovered a large lake east of the Colorado River which does not exist today. The scouts had started from Hole-in-the-Rock to find a way for the San Juan pioneers to travel to Montezuma. That large pioneer company passed by Pagahrit Lake in the late winter of 1880, and reached what became Bluff City on the 6th of the following April. I passed the Pagahrit in my mother's arms.

Very soon after settling in Bluff, the people there put cattle in the lake country, but most of them removed their stock in 1884, when the Piutes made such wanton slaughter of cattle after the fight at Soldier Crossing. My father held to this range until I began moving out our cattle in 1902.

My first recollection of the Pagahrit dates from May, 1891, when, as a boy of 11, I began riding there with my father after his cattle. To me it was from the first a delightful place—providing such a sharp contrast with its plant and animal life, to the bald rocks and sand stretching away from it in all directions. The lake had at one time extended far up the box canyon to the south, but the floods of the ages had deposited their sediment, making the lake ever shorter. In the years when I was there, a green meadow extended up from the south-end, and in it were two crystal springs, running in two streams to the lake. One of these springs bubbled from the top of a little grassy knoll—a delightful place where I used to sit and watch the leeches in the bottom. They were about the size and shape of a 25c piece, but they could stretch out four inches.

The Pagahrit welcomed me in from the burning desert with joyous sights and sounds and cooling breath from every living thing—the green groves, the grass, the flowers, the happy birds singing exultantly from the trees and the willows. The gentle echo of it came back to me from the gray cliffs enclosing the garden from the wild outside.





As stated above, there is little or no boat travel on the San Juan River at this time, and the status of boating on the lower Green this spring is still rather indefinite. However, guides are making reservations for Glen Canyon trips as usual. This magnificent section of canyon country will continue to be the most popular of all, and tour parties undoubtedly will grow rapidly in number as the water rises and more people learn about Glen Canyon's breathtaking scenery.

Glen Canyon tours can be arranged for varying lengths ranging from several hours to seven days. Most boating groups have entered the river at Hite, taking four to seven days for the leisurely 150-mile journey downstream to Kane Creek (Crossing of the Fathers). As the lake rises, making feasible the use of larger boats and motors, it is probable that the

time will be shortened somewhat for most people. Hite itself will be inundated within a year or so, but new launching areas will be developed in the vicinity before then.

Cars may be driven to Hite, or charter plane service is available from Page. Some guides will transport boaters to Hite and meet them with transportation at Kane Creek.

There is still a choice of boats, including rubber rafts, kayaks, jet-boats, outboards, and airboats. (Large inboards have not been used in Glen Canyon because of shallow, silty water, but undoubtedly they will be used extensively on Lake Powell in the future.)

It is also possible to make arrangements with several guides for trips through Cataract Canyon, one of roughest sections along the Colorado.

One of the major Glen Canyon guide services offers four-day tours by jetboat from Hite to Rainbow Bridge and return. Another offers powerboat trips upstream from Kane Creek to Rainbow Bridge and other scenic and historic points in the Glen Canyon area. Trips can be arranged for periods varying from one to seven days. (It has been necessary in the past to hike five miles from the river to Rainbow Bridge, but Lake Powell—as it rises—will shorten this hiking distance considerably.)

Season for most trips through Glen Canyon in 1963 runs from mid-April to late September. Sample jetboat rates: \$15 per hour (regardless of number of passengers) on short trips; \$30 per person per day; \$140 per person for seven-day trip. Typical rate for downstream raft trips (six days) is \$25 per person per day, with

I looked at the clear deep lake, with its wind-driven ripples lapping against the cliff, and at the flocks of ducks, coots, and divers swimming proudly or skimming over the glistening surface. They struggled among thick fringes of rushes along the shore, squawking their competition to the red-breasted blackbirds. In marshy spots nearby, and where the water was shallow, cranes, herons and snipes waded without fear, for this had been their sanctuary from the ages, beyond the trails of predacious man.

And wonder of wonders: Pagahrit had three floating islands! Covered with tall rushes as sails on a ship, they sailed with every change of the wind from one side to the other of their little ocean. The water birds paddled along beside them, or rode as pirates on their own ship.

On the neck of a solid rock promontory extending out into the lake, stood the crumbled walls of an ancient castle. Being 75 feet above the waterline, it was protected from approach on three sides by the sheer surface, and on the fourth side by a limestone battlement reaching down over the rounding cliff. To the bows and arrows of 700 years ago, it had been impregnable. On the sloping point of the rock, hand-holds and toe-holds had been cut to get down to the water. It seemed certain that

a canoe had been tied at the bottom by which to cross the lake. Whether robber's roost or retreat of honest toilers, at one time the Pagahrit Castle had been the last word in security.

The Pagahrit was a sanctum sanctorium for the Piutes. To them we are indebted for the name, which means "standing water," and is pronounced paw-GAH-rit. The echoing enchantment of the place appealed to them as it appealed to us from the time we began years later to camp there every spring. They vested it with fantastic traditions, for when things happened for which they could not account, they imagined causes which they gave as facts to their children. They said the lake used to have in it a monster which raised its head above the surface in the stillness of night, and sang a bedeviling song to lure men within its reach.

Lake Gulch in ancient times had been a deep boxcanyon, its bottom below the bed of the lake which was to be formed. At the north end of the lake-to-be, was the mouth of another boxcanyon called East Fork. This fork came from far away among the bald rocks which shed rain as a tile roof, and it drained a wider territory than was drained by Lake Gulch. The designers of the unusual creation had

apparently ordered a tremendous cloudburst in the upper reaches of the fork, resulting in a mighty torrent thick with sand and drift. It poured at right angles into the jungle of cottonwoods and black willows in Lake Gulch, and piled up a logjam of drift and sand more than 100 feet high—so high in fact that the mouth of the fork was choked with the big delta, or plug, and its water found a way over the solid rock above the new dam, making a beginning for the new lake.

The second cataclysmic cloudburst occurred in 1915. It washed-out the ancient barrier, thus destroying the lake. In the ghastly hole where the water had been impounded, we found thick layers of minute fossil life which had been collecting there for ages. The bottom and sides of the dead lake were like a ponderous book which had been opened to view.

With our modern huge equipment for moving earth, it would be a simple matter to rebuild the plug and once again create Lake Pagahrit. The stream which fed the lake is now rippling by to no purpose. A safe spillway could easily be cut over the rock.

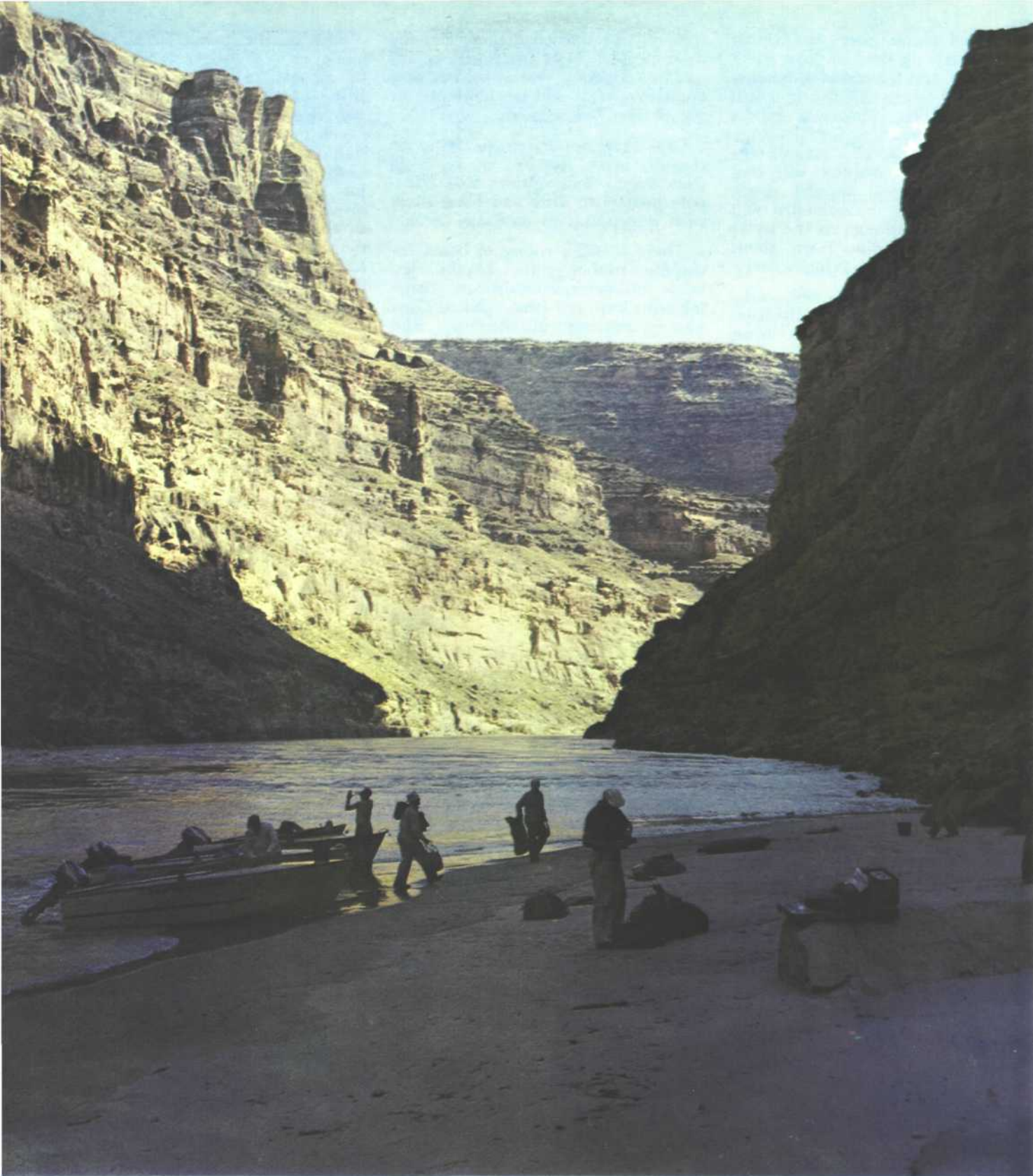
The difficulty of approach to the Pagahrit will be modified by the water behind Glen Canyon Dam backing-up a long way in Lower Lake Canyon, and a road is in the making about seven miles to the east. There is also a landing strip on Noki Dome to the southeast, and one at Hall's Crossing in the opposite direction. These are not so near as to spoil the charm of the lake's remoteness.

When the big, hungry cavity is filled with clear water, the birds will come again, the rushes will grow and the floating islands will set sail as before. The art and ingenuity of man can vest the place with all the rare charms of his imagination—fishing, boating, horseback trips, beauty spots in the echoing forks of the canyon above, and possibilities too many to tell. When people in general are made to know about it, they will come from far and near to enjoy the unique charm of something different to anything in that line now available. ///



LAKE PAGAHIRIT





*Evening Landing, Cataract Canyon. A riverparty prepares to make camp in the world's most spectacular "bedroom"—the multicolored canyons of the Colorado River. Photo by Weston and Jeanne Lee, from their recently published book, "Torrent in the Desert" (Northland Press, Flagstaff).*

special rates for family share-work plan and for explorer-style "rough-it" plan. Some guide rates are slightly lower than \$25 per day.

There is no age limit for boating trips in Glen Canyon. Children as young as four years have taken them, as well as oldsters in their 80s. There

is nothing strenuous about them, and they are much safer than highway travel. Keep in mind, of course, that young children probably would not enjoy the longer trips.

Besides vehicle and boat tours, guides in southern Utah also offer scenic pack trips, hiking trips, scenic



flights, and deer hunting pack trips in the fall. The scenic flights are certain to become more popular as people learn that southern Utah is probably the most spectacularly impressive aerial panorama on earth. Hiking and pack trips can be scheduled into remote areas such as Grand Gulch, Zion Narrows, Escalante River Canyon, The Needles, Standing Rocks, and other primitive sections where even the versatile jeep finds tough going or is barred completely.

It is impossible, of course, to prophesy future events. But some probabilities have a good chance of becoming certainties. Among those which promise to have the most important effect on future recreation in southern Utah are the following:

1. The creation of Lake Powell, which will eventually attract as many as a million visitors to the Glen Canyon area every year—by water, air, and overland on scenic highways.

2. The probable creation of Canyonlands National Park (see page 31) within the next year or two. As a major national park, Canyonlands will attract hundreds of thousands of visitors within a short time after development begins.

3. The possibility of a national parkway across southern Utah within a decade or so, connecting or making more accessible the wonderful parks and other scenic wonders in that area.

4. Completion of Interstate 70 (Denver-Los Angeles) across southern Utah within the next few years, opening up primitive, breathtakingly scenic San Rafael Swell and offering easier access to the whole southern part of the state.

5. Increased publicity on state, local, and private levels, informing many more prospective visitors of what awaits them in Southern Utah.

6. Continuing improvements by the federal government in national parks and monuments, national forests, and other public lands.

7. Establishment and development of more state parks every year.

8. Improvement of access highways and roads, which is continuing as funds permit.

General trends in recreation, nationally and regionally, also indicate that southern Utah will continue to grow in importance as a recreational area. ///

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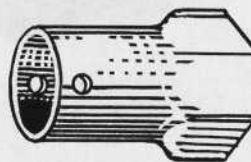
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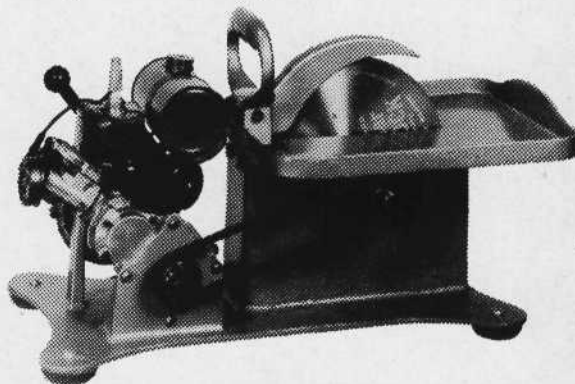
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# THE GREAT BASIN'S RESTLESS FLYABOUT

By EDMUND C. JAEGER

author of "DESERT WILDFLOWERS," "THE CALIFORNIA DESERTS,"  
"OUR DESERT NEIGHBORS," "THE NORTH AMERICAN DESERTS"

ONCE THE traveler enters middle Nevada and southern Utah, he finds himself in the territory of the large and handsome Black-billed American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*). Much of this bird's body, including beak, head and tail, is covered by glossy black; contrasting white feathers adorn the abdomen and upper parts of the wings. A bronzy iridescence adds a peculiar beauty to the black plumage. The normal length is 17 or 18 inches, 9 to 12 of which is a graduated tapering tail. The wings are short and rounded, the feet stout, the beak thick, and the skin surrounding the eyes bare of feathers and black. The flight, generally low, is very direct and powerful.

This is one of the best-known birds of the Great Basin. The principal places of abundance are meadows, treed bottomlands along creeks, and open grasslands. The Black-billed Magpie is conspicuous because of the elegance of its form, its graceful flight, its rare intelligence, and inquisitive - often clownish - habits. Herein it betrays its close relationship to the crows and ravens. It may fly about in pairs, but more often we see it in small family flocks. In winter the flocks may be large. As a rule magpies are non-migrants in the southern parts of their range.

The usual notes of this restless bird are "clatters" or rapidly repeated "checks," easy to recognize once they are heard a few times. During the season of nesting (March to May) these notes are augmented by softer, more musical ones with a plaintive quality. When 15 to 20 magpies move about in flocks, they are very talkative, conversing in a connected variety of whines, soft whistles and drawn-out "ma-ag" (which sounds much like the first part of their name).

At times they frequent the dwelling places of man, becoming not only sociable birds but perhaps even troublesome and thievish—especially when given encouragement. Some years ago on a farm near Toquer-ville I met a boy who had a pet magpie, an adult male which he had raised from the time it left the parental nest. He had taught it to talk, and it lived mostly about the barnyard and vegetable garden where it did yeoman's service keeping the garden free of insect pests. Its special delight was to fly down and pick at the neighbor children's bare toes. It often inflicted rather severe wounds with its big black beak, and the small barefoot youngsters were much frightened by its antics; so much so that they often fled screaming when they saw the bird fly towards them.



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Illustration by Charles S. Papp, Riverside, Calif.

THE BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE—SOUTHERN UTAH'S "REMARKABLE BIRD OF INTRIGUING HABITS."

The children finally learned to arrive well shod, or if barefooted, to carry a small stick with them; this last was enough to keep the magpie at a distance.

Last summer I camped in a thicket of junipers and pinyons. I was awakened just after dawn by a "great-goings-on" among the birds, the principal call-notes being those of several magpies. Their commotions centered about a half-concealed gray object among the topmost branches of the nearest tree. Going near, I discovered a small gray owl sitting there, seemingly quite unconcerned and certainly not visibly annoyed by the magpie's boisterous behaviour. No matter how vocative they were or how menacingly near they moved about him, the owl never so much as appeared to notice. Evidently, he had decided that his greatest safety lay in staying put. The owl's stoic patience brought its reward, for the magpies soon decided that there was little they could do about either annoying or frightening their imagined avian adversary, and they left.

With all the insatiable curiosity of crows and jays, the magpies next found interest in investigating my camp. With long wedge-shaped black tails streaming gracefully behind them, they flew in very near, two of them alighting on the ground, two others coming in to rest in a nearby tree. One of the grounded birds soon began picking up bits of food I had tossed down, and straightway it was followed by the others.

In the early days of Western exploration, magpies were a great annoyance to the horses and mules of

the expeditions. Colonel Pike tells how these birds "rendered bold and voracious by want," assembled around his miserable party in great numbers picking the sores on the backs of their perishing horses and snatching at all food they could possibly reach.

A southern Utah sheep rancher I met wasn't at all enthusiastic about magpies because from time to time he found certain of the birds opening deep wounds on the backs of newly-shorn sheep, attracted no doubt by cuts accidentally made by the wool-cutter's shears. It was a quite common occurrence, he said, to see magpies sitting on the backs of both sheep and cattle, sometimes occupying their time picking-off ticks.

Magpies are continually on the alert for new sources of food. Anything that moves, any newly placed object, or any bright surface almost immediately gets their attention. They roost quietly in trees at night, but do not cease their hunting activities until almost dark, and they are flying about watching for food at earliest dawn.

While traveling south of Cedar City, I was surprised to see 20 magpies taking turns at disposing of a decaying calf carcass on the side of the highway. They were assisted in their unsavory scavenger chores by two ravens and several turkey vultures.

On the whole, magpies are valuable birds. They are commendable insect eaters, consumers of innumerable noxious weevils, ravenous caterpillars and grasshoppers, especially when the birds are rearing their young. At other times while leading

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a wandering life, they feed on carrion and small rodents; only occasionally do they molest small birds and their eggs.

The nests are found in many situations. Some are built in low juniper bushes, some in willows, others in tall streamside trees. The nest is always a big globular structure—actually a domed-over platform, 1½ feet in diameter and presenting to the outside an immense thorny covering of interlaced twigs. The real nest is inside beneath its cover, and is lined with rootlets and grasses. The entrance is on one side and may be entered by a more or less winding passageway. I sometimes wonder how there is room for so large a bird with tail so long—plus room for the 4 to 6 young growing birdlings.

Several birds-of-prey utilize abandoned magpie nests. Sparrow Hawks go inside to lay their rust-colored eggs. Long-eared and Western Horned Owls, always "notoriously averse" as Robert B. Rockwell says "to anything that bears a semblance to work," do little by way of repairing the nest before laying their large white eggs on top of the collapsed roof. The Sharp-shinned Hawk, not a nest builder itself, will use the old nest—but only after the roof has fallen in.

Quite a number of small birds utilize the old nests as refuge stations in bad weather or as hide-outs when fleeing from raptorial enemies. The late M. French Gilman of Banning, told me how he found one of the bulky nests being used by a house cat when it came time to have her litter of kittens.

Our American Magpie is quite similar to the Magpie of Europe, differing mostly in its voice, greater size and much longer tail. Doubtless both birds originated from one primary stock. How representatives of the tribe got to America from the Old World is anybody's guess.

The Yellow-billed Magpie of California's Central Valley and coastal valleys from San Francisco to Ventura County, is a slightly larger bird, with beak of yellow and yellow bare patch behind the eye. It may be but a geographical race of the common magpie. Its habits are quite similar.

The most resplendent tribal members are the Cissas of Java, Burma and India. Their plumage is a splendid green, blue or cobalt and the feet and beak are coral red. The Blue Magpie of Spain has wings and tail of cobalt, an ash-colored body and head of black.

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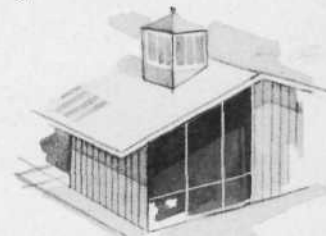
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# CANYONLANDS CONTROVERSY

## SHOULD UTAH MINE MINERAL\$ OR TOURIST\$?

By D. JAMES CANNON

Director, Utah Tourist  
and Publicity Council

THOSE relatively few persons who are well-acquainted with the Canyonlands region know its power to captivate completely. They who have heard its siren's song never forget, are never free.

An unembroidered description of Canyonlands is impressive enough. Briefly, it is a region of bare rock, sand, and flaming color. Its rock has been eroded into an infinitude of strange forms—cliffs, buttes of every description, mesas, isolated towers, sculptured walls, and smaller formations of every conceivable size and shape.

Until recent years, much of the Canyonlands was little-known to the outside world. Paved highways skirted around it, a few dirt roads penetrated parts of it; but much of the region was almost completely inaccessible except by foot or horseback. Not until the past 10 or 15 years have roads built by uranium and oil prospectors opened up much of the Canyonlands area to wheeled vehicles.

The visits of Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall to southeastern Utah in 1961 resulted in unprecedented national publicity for the area. A native of Arizona, Secretary Udall was reared in the canyon and desert country of the Southwest; still he was overwhelmed by the relatively unspoiled magnificence of Utah's Canyonlands, and envisioned the tremendous possibilities for orderly development of its scenic resources. It was he who proposed a great Canyonlands National Park.

This is not to say, of course, that other men of vision have not dreamed of these things; but in his position as head of the agency which controls 51% of Utah's land, Secretary Udall had the authority to make important decisions and power to set in motion the complex machinery by which slow-moving events are accelerated.

So it is hardly debatable that Mr.

Udall's visit to southeastern Utah, his falling in love with what he saw, and his decision to start development of more of its recreational resources were the immediate causes of the present controversies over the Canyonlands National Park.

The park is controversial not because there is any disagreement about the magnificence of the general landscape, but rather as to: (1) How much of it should be included within a park? (2) Should uses other than recreation be permitted? (3) Should it be one large national park, divided into several national parks, or part of it national park (with limited use) and part national recreation area (with multiple use)? (4) How should the state be compensated for the land it owns within the proposed park? Let us discuss each of these points separately.

(1) *Size.* Some people believe that most of the Canyonlands region deserves national park status. Already five national monuments have been established in the area, as well as several Utah state parks and a Navajo tribal park. Numerous other points of remarkable interest are in various stages of consideration, acquisition, planning, and development as recreational areas, by national, state, and local agencies.

However, there has been general agreement that Canyonlands National Park should center around the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers, embracing (1) the high plateau between the two rivers, which afford such breathtaking panoramas, (2) the fantastic Needles-Salt Creek region east of the main Colorado, and (3) the wild, primitive Land of Standing Rocks west of the main Colorado.

The principal disagreement here has been the acreage to be included. Originally, Secretary Udall proposed a million-acre park, but this was cut to about 330,000 acres in Senate Bill 2387, introduced in Congress in 1962 by Utah Senator Frank E. Moss, a Democrat. The bill incorporated

provisions of size, boundaries, and use (grazing and mining as well as recreation) meeting the approval of Secretary Udall; in other words, the Moss bill was backed by the Administration.

Utah's Republican Governor George D. Clyde, however, did not feel that such a large acreage was justified. Much of the area is not particularly scenic, he maintained, since it consists of vast stretches of rather flat, uninteresting country which serves only to connect the points of special attraction. This type of terrain, comprising the bulk of the proposed national park, should be excluded and thus left open to non-recreational uses such as grazing, mining and hunting.

A Canyonlands Study Committee, which Governor Clyde appointed in January, 1962, consisted of the directors of five Utah State agencies and was under the chairmanship of the late Chester J. Olsen, prominent conservationist who was a former U. S. Regional Forester and first director of the Utah Park and Recreation Commission (also, incidentally, a Democrat).

This committee spent several months studying all aspects of the Canyonlands situation and issued a lengthy report in March, 1962. Among its recommendations was one of size: 102,000 acres to be zoned as national park, surrounded by 208,000 acres to be zoned as national recreation area. The committee's recommendations immediately were incorporated into a senate bill introduced by Wallace F. Bennett, Utah's Republican Senator.

In January, 1963, Senator Moss replaced his first Canyonlands bill with Senate Bill 27, which differs from his previous bill in that it reduces the proposed park by 75,000 acres to an area about 253,000 acres, and places a 25-year phase-out limit on mineral prospecting. Eliminated from the park by the Senator's new bill is the Land of Standing Rocks on the west, Beef Basin (a deer grazing area) on the south, and a strip across the north end. The Standing Rocks were excluded because of their remoteness and the probability that they will remain inaccessible for years to come.

It is still too early to assess the reaction in various quarters to this latest bill of Senator Moss, but there is some doubt that it will be regarded entirely with favor by the Administration—mainly because of the reduction in size. Certainly it does not satisfy the original objections of

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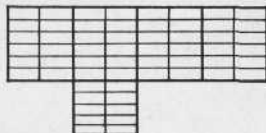


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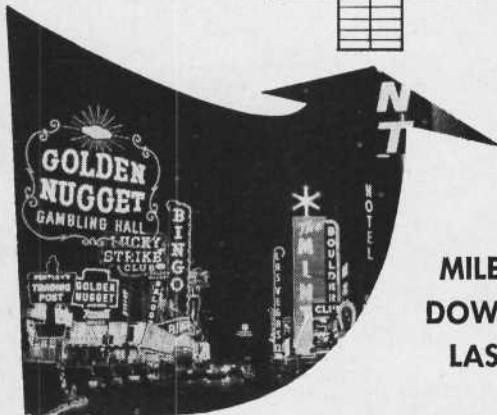
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Governor Clyde and Senator Bennett. There is opposition within the National Park Service itself to elimination of Standing Rocks from the proposed park, since that area is considered one of its major attractions—their very wildness being an asset, and the present time (before exploitation) probably being most opportune for including them within the park.

(2) *Use of Land.* This promises to be the most controversial issue of all those connected with various Canyonlands proposals. There is general agreement regarding uses to be permitted within the park, but opponents do not agree on how these uses can be guaranteed and regulated.

Traditionally, national parks do not permit mining, grazing, hunting, and other uses that disturb the natural environment. There is no doubt that this concept of national park use is supported by an influential segment of the American population, including powerful conservationist groups which may resist multiple-use proposals such as those advocated by Senator Moss. The Senator, it should be emphasized, is not opposed to "multiple use" within the proposed park. Both of his bills provide for continued grazing under existing rights (though these provisions apply only for 25 years or during the lifetime of the present right-holder or the immediate heir, successor or assign of the present right-holder). Mining would be subject to regulation by the Secretary of the Interior "for the control of these activities as he deems necessary to preserve the scenic, scientific, and archeological values of the area." U. S. mining and mineral leasing laws would continue to apply within the park for 25 years, "but such termination of application shall not affect any valid rights established prior thereto."

Senator Moss believes that these provisions are generous and reasonable; they provide for a long-term continuation of present grazing and mining activities, and allow for regulated expansion of mining activities. Objections come (or may come, when the Moss bill is discussed in Congress) from those who protest the dilution of traditional national park standards, and from others who claim that the Secretary of the Interior, by regulation, will be able effectively to prevent mining activities if he wants to do so.

It should be stated at this point that southeastern Utah is rich in oil, natural gas, uranium, oxidized copper, and potassium-magnesium salts.

None of these minerals are now produced in large quantities within the proposed park; however, only a few miles east of the park a multi-million-dollar potash mine will soon begin production, and huge deposits of potassium-magnesium salts similar to that now penetrated by the mine underlie part of the park area.

A producing oil field has recently been opened just north of the park, and considerable exploration has been conducted within the park area. So far as known, other minerals within the park area are not commercially valuable at this time, but it is possible that they could become so at some future date.

The area does provide some livestock grazing at present, though the economic value is not great. Deer are numerous at certain times of the year along the river bottoms and in the southern Salt Creek-Needles region, raising questions of herd control such as the recent problem of elk overpopulation in Yellowstone National Park.

The matter of mineral exploration and development particularly is of great concern to Governor Clyde and to Utah citizens generally. Utah is not a rich state, except in undeveloped resources, and every possible resource must be developed when opportunities arise; though they may not have developed all of their natural resources as yet, Utahns shudder at the thought of being prevented from developing new ones when conditions are ripe. This would be the case, they feel, if potential and known mineral deposits are "locked up" within Canyonlands National Park.

Governor Clyde resents being accused of opposition to Canyonlands National Park *per se*. He realizes perfectly the great economic value of a major national park, but he fears that the Moss proposal will close the door to future development of the area's natural resources. And here is the crux of the disagreement, for Senator Moss insists that his proposal will do no such thing.

(3) *Classification.* Senator Moss and Secretary Udall are in favor of a single large national park, as is apparent from the foregoing. An alternate plan was proposed by the Clyde committee, which recommended that multiple use (recreation, mining, grazing, hunting, etc.) be assured by combining *national park*, which traditionally does not permit other than recreational-aesthetic uses, with *national recreation area*, which—though a comparative newcomer within the national park system—does allow mul-



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multiple uses. The Clyde committee recommended only a small reduction in size from the original Moss proposal (from 332,000 acres to 310,000 acres), and it differed from the Moss bill in specifically prohibiting multiple use in those park areas of superb scenic value which would be zoned as national park areas.

The committee believed that its proposal would have a much better chance of passing Congress, would meet the approval of conservation groups and national park "purists," would preserve traditional national park standards in one-third of the park while permitting multiple use of the remaining two-thirds.

Though the national park recreation area combination would be unique, the committee felt that it was hardly more so than the multiple-use provisions of the Moss bill, which have few precedents, and it should find easier sledding in Congress. Secretary Udall, on the other hand, claims that this type of combination is not feasible.

Senator Bennett has accepted the committee's recommendations and, as stated previously, has incorporated them into a Senate bill.

(4) *State Lands.* Another matter of serious concern to Utahns is that of state lands within the proposed park, which total approximately 34,000 acres. According to the latest Moss bill, the state would be compensated by being given equal acreage in federal lands elsewhere in the state. (69% of Utah's land is owned by various agencies of the federal government.)

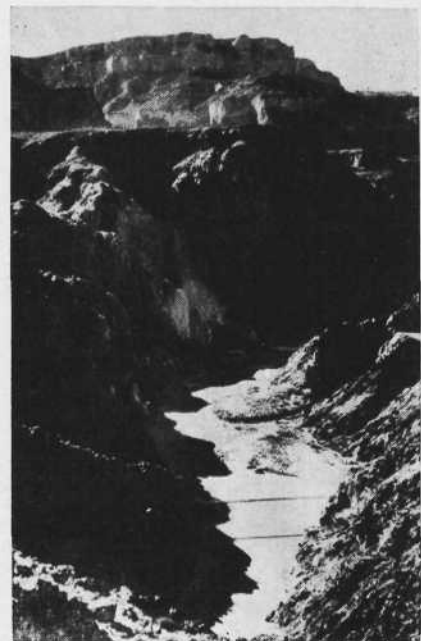
Objection of the State Land Board to this is that the federal government determines the value both of state lands to be traded, and lieu lands to be substituted. In all probability, no special value would be added for scenic attributes, or for river-beds (the state owns the area's river-beds), or for possible mineral deposits.

From this discussion, it is obvious that the Canyonlands controversies are not simple. They will not easily be resolved. But they *must* be if the people of Utah and U. S. citizens generally, as well as future generations to come, are to reap the greatest good from the treasure of Canyonlands.

Of primary importance at this time is the resolution of differences between Utahns. Conflicts must be compromised and a united front established. A Canyonlands bill must be devised and presented in Congress to best meet the objectives of all in-

terested parties, if this is possible, or most of them if it is not.

An encouraging sign that reconciliation of differences is progressing was a recent meeting between Senator Moss and Governor Clyde. There will be others in the near future, which gives hope that an early solution will be found (in Utah at least) to the Canyonlands controversies. ///



Bill Hoy photo

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## CANYONLAND GEMS

(continued from page 7)

Collectors who go hunting in the low country around Moab in the summer should remember the laws of the desert: tell someone where you are going, take plenty of water, be sure that your car is in good working order, fill with gas and oil before you start. The desert yields endless treasures—vast panoramas of beauty, peace, and solitude, as well as agate and jasper, petrified wood and bone—but it is likely to slap down anyone who approaches it without proper respect.

Probably no other area in the West offers so much material of such variety within so restricted an area. Many of those who come to us for information seem particularly interested in collecting dinosaur bone. Moab must be in what was once a happy hunting ground for these great beasts, and petrified bone is found in dozens of locales in almost any direction from town. It is not all of the best quality, but by diligent search one can almost always come up with some gem pieces. Nearly always where bone is found, one also finds gastroliths (gizzard-stones) and coprolite (petrified excrement). The Upper Courthouse Tower section, Brown's Hole, and

Long Valley are all good places to search for bone.

There are many places where various types of agate are plentiful. Floy is noted for a variety called pigeon-blood, a dark red or white agate dotted with bright red. There is red moss agate in Long Valley, as well as red and yellow jasper, mottled and banded in beautiful patterns. It is possible to load a tumbler in Long Valley with colorful material already broken to size and nicely shaped. All of the collecting areas contain semi-translucent chalcedony, ranging in color from white through all shades of pink and rose to carnelian, and occasionally one finds an agate that closely resembles the well-known Montana agate. Agate pseudomorph-

after-barite is quite plentiful in the Yellow Cat.

Several types of petrified wood are found, and again, there are many collecting areas. Yellow Cat redwood is famous, but is very scarce, and a small limb section will be a "braggin' rock" in any collection. The Upper Court House Tower area has a good deal of wood, some of it of a black and cream translucent type.

As the map indicates, fossils are plentiful. Just a few miles out of Moab, there is a hillside where shells, crinoid sections, and horn coral can be collected. The horn coral may appear as individual specimens, or embedded in a sedimentary rock which takes sufficient polish to make nice book-ends or spheres. At the outer

limits of the Floy area, toward the Green River, petrified coral occasionally is found, with now and then a bit of turritella—strayed from Wyoming?—and very rarely a cycad.

Along that great Colorado River are treasures for the rockhounds: solid boulders of red jasper and red fossil clams. How to reach them? It can be done only by boat, but Tex McClatchy, the Moab riverman, has a soft spot in his heart for rockhounds, and usually can be persuaded to halt one of his river runs at a favorable spot.

Materials described in this article are only a few of the many found in the Moab area, but word-of-mouth directions are best for those areas not shown on the accompanying map.

///

## MARKAGUNT FOSSILS

(continued from page 7)

terraces which are really part of this land mass. It is from the one on the right, the Kolob Terrace, that the majestic scenery of Zion National Monument has been carved. On the left is the highly dissected terrace to which Dr. Herbert E. Gregory gave the name "Piute Highlands."

From the mouth of the canyon to the brink of the plateau, 19 miles beyond, lies a succession of sedimentary strata. All three periods of the Mesozoic Era are represented by 17 different named formations. Above this is the Wasatch (Cedar Breaks - Bryce Canyon) formation of the Cenozoic Era.

Proceeding up the canyon, you pass faults, folds, numerous land forms, ancient volcanoes, and many tributary canyons. Some of these side-canyons follow fractures into which the great Hurricane Fault branches at its northerly extremity.

Fossils occur in nine of the formations which make up the walls of the canyon. It is in the Tropic Shales (Upper Cretaceous) that they are found most abundantly, and which is the best source of supply for the collector. Some parts of this formation consist of beds of oyster shells 10 feet thick. The coal seams in the Tropic Shales enable easy identity of the formation. First you see the black streak high up on the side of the canyon, then, as you ascend, you pass over it at the Tucker Coal Mine. Oysters, other bivalves, and several species of snails weather out of the shales and limestones both above and below the coal stratum and lie loose along the top and sides of the ridges extending to the bottom of the canyon. Flat slabs made up of these mollusks

may be obtained by hiking up a ridge or side-canyon to the fossil beds.

Fossil leaves are found in the sandstone of another formation at a road cut opposite the forest campground above the Iron County Recreation Area.

From a place near the summit (designated by a sign as Zion View) the panorama of Kolob Terrace spreads out before you: Black Mountain, an ancient volcano on the right, adjoining which is the billowy surface of the terrace; the tree-covered slopes and ridges of the immediate foreground; the buttes and mesas of Zion Park, separated by crevice-like canyons.

From the summit at the brink of the plateau a somewhat meandering route traverses the surface. From the Cedar Breaks Junction, Highway 143 is followed to about a mile beyond Panguitch Lake Junction from where a road leads right to the top of Brian Head. Stops should be made between the Cedar Breaks Lodge and this point, at the museum, and the various scenic lookouts along the way.

A drive to the top of Brian Head is worthwhile. The road is passable by any kind of car. From this top-of-the-world position, at an altitude of 11,315 feet, you can see and recognize landmarks in Utah, Nevada, and Arizona. Some with good eyesight and strong imaginations add Colorado to the list.

Backtracking from the top of Brian Head to Panguitch Lake Junction, the road to Panguitch Lake is followed to the Parowan Junction. The traverse of the surface of the plateau reveals ancient landscapes which have been rejuvenated by the great uplift which formed the high plateaus. Vast

sheets of lavas are spread over much of the surface of the Markagunt. Associated with some of this lava are extensive deposits of cryptocrystalline quartz varying in mineral composition from crude chert through jasper to variously colored and patterned agates.

Good specimens of agate may be obtained on either side of the road to Brian Head; along the highway from Parowan Junction through Sydney Valley; and by hiking into the large valley to the right of the highway to Panguitch Lake east from Panguitch Lake Junction. Likely places to find these gems are in streambeds running through the sage-covered flats.

Turning left at Parowan Junction, the road goes through grassy Sydney Valley. Samples of a variety of jasper called touchstone may be obtained by walking west across the valley to a pile of black rocks where blasting by a prospector has broken the surface.

Just before starting down Parowan Canyon, a turn left across an open space brings you to the edge of the plateau and another breathtaking view. In the foreground are the ridges and canyons of the Piute Highlands. Beyond are Parowan Valley, Little Salt Lake, the Mineral Range, the majestic Baldy, Belknap and Delano mountains; and the ranges and valleys of the Great Basin in seemingly endless succession. The descent of Parowan Canyon should be made near sunset as it is at that time the grandeur of the scenery is most impressive.

Collecting in the National Monument is prohibited. However, this excludes just a few miles along the brink of the plateau.

///



## ROADSIDE GEOLOGY

(continued from page 11)

stone lying between the Wingate and the Navajo sandstones.

I. At the top of the hill east of Butler Wash (Milepost 42) you have your first view of the San Juan River valley, with Bluff in the shade trees near the cliffs. At this point, the highway is on the Entrada sandstone which overlies the Carmel shales. Many of the flat surfaces seen to the southeast are ancient river terraces capped with layers of river gravels which have been brought in from the Colorado high country. Rockhounds enjoy hunting these for San Juan River agates and other colorful hard rocks. Bluff sandstone cliffs rim the valley.

Bluff was named by the early Mormon pioneers of 1880 after the "bluffs" about town. When studying the massive sandstone in 1915, H. E. Gregory of the United States Geological Survey named the formation after the town. So the cliffs and the town are actually named after each other. The much-photographed "Navajo Twins" are Bluff sandstone capping the Summerville shale.

J. Four miles east of Bluff, at the mouth of Recapture Wash, is the type location for the Recapture member of the Morrison formation. The peculiar and photogenic erosional features in Recapture Pocket (six miles northeast of Bluff) are in the Recapture shale. Going toward Blanding, the highway crosses first the Recapture shales and then at Milepost 55 the Westwater Canyon member of the Morrison formation.

K. Milepost 59 is at the foot of a long hill which crosses the colorful Brushy Basin shales and then climbs on top of the capping Dakota sandstone. Weathering of the Brushy Basin shales has exposed many dinosaur fossils in the Four Corners country. The Dakota sandstone marks the return of marine deposition through the area. Incidentally, the Dakota sandstone is the formation which produces the artesian waters far out in Kansas from the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.

L. Blanding on the south and Monticello on the east are nestled below the 11,000-foot Abajo Mountains, a classic example of a laccolith mountain. (*Laccolith mountains are formed by molten rock slowly flowing upward in between the layers of the sedimentary formations, causing the*

*overlying formations to bulge upward; this type mountain was first studied in southern Utah — the Henrys, Abajos, LaSals and Navajo Mountain are all laccoliths.*) Blanding and Monticello are built on Mancos shale, but one of the best exposures of this marine shale is the "black dirt" at Milepost 87 between the two towns.

Utah 47 ends at Monticello and U.S. 160 continues northward to Arches National Monument. The mileposts north of Monticello are numbered from the Colorado-Utah line.

M. At Milepost 31, east of the highway, is a gigantic sandstone knob known as Church Rock. This massive whitish-tan rock is typical of the Entrada formation. It is overlying the red shaley Carmel formation. Most of the way to Moab, you'll be traveling between the Entrada, Carmel, and Navajo formations.

N. Between Mileposts 39 and 40, the highway crosses the level contact between the Carmel and our old friend, the Navajo sandstone. To the east is some of the most valuable land in the country—Big Indian Wash uranium properties and the recently-discovered Lisbon Valley oil field. As part of the Paradox Basin, this entire region has a great future as a producer of potash as well as oil.

O. A geology professor could spend an entire class period and not explain or represent a fault better than the one seen next to the road at Milepost 57. As though planned by the highway department, there is a good parking spot immediately up the hill and on the east side of the road. Just below the parking area, slickensides show the face of the fault on the up-thrown block of Entrada sandstone. Looking at the fault from the east side of the road, the formations to the left have moved downward with respect to the formations on the right. There is a displacement of about 75 feet in a vertical direction!

For the next two miles the road runs through the Salt Wash sandstone and shales.

P. At Milepost 59, our simple geologic picture goes to pieces as we travel downhill, crossing the faults and slump blocks that bind the southwest side of Spanish Valley. This is a fine example of a graben valley. (*"Graben" is the German word for grave, referring to an old grave that has sunken; a graben valley is formed by a fault on each side of the valley—the valley floor being the down-thrown block.*) Proceeding toward

Moab, one sees the high cliffs of Wingate to the west. Fault blocks are lying on their sides at the foot of the cliffs. The beautiful La Sal Mountains lie at the east-end of the valley.

Moab boomed with uranium in the early 1950s, with oil in the late '50s, and now with potash. Because of the surface value of our southeast Utah rocks, i.e. scenery, Moab is also booming with tourism!

Q. If you have stayed with me this long and haven't run off the road or thrown this magazine out of the car window (don't litter the geology) you get "A" for perseverance. Continue a few miles north of Moab to the Arches National Monument. In the headquarters building and visitors' center you'll find excellent pictures, displays, and explanations of the Monument's landscape. Here is the nation's greatest concentration of natural stone arches, windows, spires, and pinnacles, carved by nature in sandstone. ///

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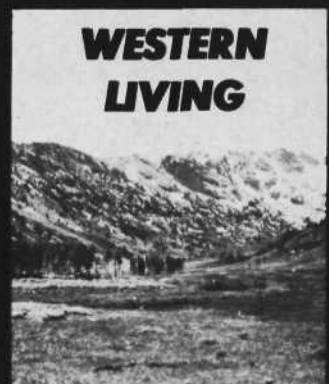
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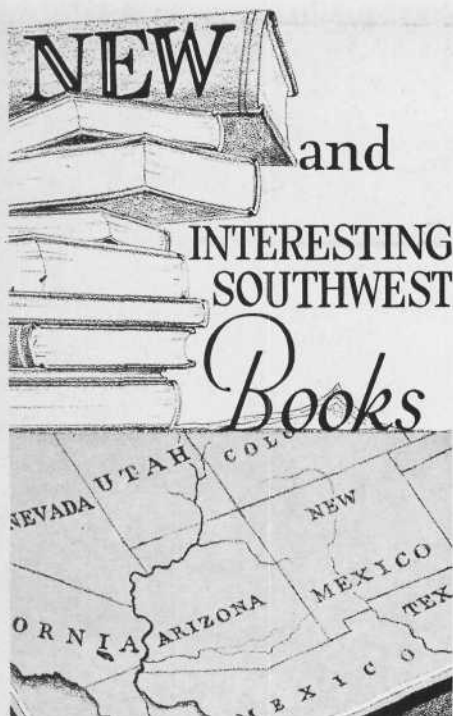
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THE COLORADO River is the star of *TORRENT IN THE DESERT*, a new richly illustrated high quality volume by Northland Press. A picture story, primarily, of the greatest river of the Southwest, *TORRENT IN THE DESERT* has 119 pages of full-color scenes (see pages 19 and 26 in this issue) along the river's course—from the Green River Lakes and the Wind River Mountains to the final capillaries that reach the Estuary and then the Sea of Cortez. The color photos and text (103 pages of the latter) are by Weston and Jeanne Lee, who spent four years of weekends probing the tributaries and the main course of the most exciting of all America's rivers. Lee, who is operator of a color plate service, processed the transparencies himself, then supervised their printing. It is understandable why the Lees, after 60,000 miles of driving, four years of photographing, untold hours of researching and editing, and weeks of printing, have priced their *TORRENT* at \$20.

Taking up where the *TORRENT* terminates is Sunset's new Discovery Book: *MEXICO*. This newest guidebook to our southern neighbor is heavily illustrated (107 photos, 9 maps) and lists not only the principal highways but also the side trips. There are special features on Mexico City and Baja California. *MEXICO* is a revised edition, the third, and brings us up-to-date on the three major highways to Mexico City. The guide also discusses tourist cards, vaccinations, automobile permits, insurance, customs regulations, and money exchange. The paperbound

#### THE NEW BOOKS . . .

*TORRENT IN THE DESERT*, by Weston and Jeanne Lee; 222 pages; illustrated; mostly color; hardcover; \$20.

*MEXICO*, by Sunset staff; 98 pages; heavily illustrated, with 9 maps; papercover; \$1.75.

*MEET FLORA MEXICANA*, by M. Walter Pesman; 278 pages; illustrated; vinyl hardcover edition, \$6.

#### ALSO CURRENT . . .

*BIRDS OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DESERT*, by Gusse Thomas Smith. The second edition—this time with color—of a delightful, unscientific guidebook. 68 pages; color illustrations; \$2.75.

*THE GREAT CALIFORNIA DESERTS*, by W. Storrs Lee. A dozen different facets of local history. 306 pages; sketches; \$5.95.

*LIFE IN THE SADDLE*, by Frank Collinson. A 17-year-old English boy goes "Wild West" in Texas. 243 pages; sketches; \$2.

*I PAINT THE GHOST TOWNS*, by Evelyne Boynton Grierson. Nevada-California desert country's bonanza towns captured in oils by a sensitive artist. 42 pages; papercover; \$3.

#### HOW TO ORDER . . .

The books listed above can be purchased by mail from Desert Magazine Book Store, Palm Desert, Calif. Please add 15c for postage and handling per book. California residents also add 4% sales tax. Write for free Southwest book catalog.

booklet is 98 pages of authoritative facts, and sells for \$1.75.

And, if you are going to travel to Mexico, there is now available, for the first time, a popular guide to Mexican plants and trees—in English. *MEET FLORA MEXICANA* is by M. Walter Pesman, a landscape architect, botanist, and conservationist. Pesman has arranged *MEET FLORA MEXICANA* more or less as a regional directory. Most of the 278 page book is given over to sketches and verbal descriptions of some 270 of the more common Mexican plants. The book is well indexed, and carries a lengthy bibliography. All sketches are black-and-white. Washable vinyl hard cover.

—CHARLES E. SHELTON



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# desert detours

by Oren Arnold

"Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while." Mark 6:31

Took a run into southern Utah to see if it was still there. It was; anchored by Bryce and Zion National Parks. It is not only a romantic region of room-enough, it is color country. "so beautiful," an awed tourist wrote back East, "you can barely believe it's real." Well, yes; and that's because God made it. Man, having made some other beauty spots on earth, didn't do quite so well. He'd best do what I did—go back to southern Utah for new inspiration.

★ ★ ★

Most wonderful of all up there are the people. I wanted to do some fishing, but never quite got to the water, because I found a store owner in Mexican Hat who had this sign out front:

"Labor, \$3 an hour. Discussing fishing, hunting, politics, taxes and such, \$8 an hour. Arguing, \$20 an hour. Discussing women, FREE."

★ ★ ★

The women of Utah are worth discussion—provided it's on the highest possible plane. Just be cautious! "I was hunting deep in the Pine Valley forest north of St. George," an oldtimer told me, "when suddenly a huge bear slipped up to my back. He pinned my arms to my side and started squeezing me to death. Then the bear reached for my gun and stuck it hard onto my spine."

"Whatever did you do?" I demanded, all a-quiver. "Do? What else could I do? I married his daughter."

★ ★ ★

If you worry about what other people think of you, Hiram Tate of Cedar City told me, it means you have more confidence in their opinions than in your own.

★ ★ ★

They have a blood-bank station in Monticello, and two Utahns were standing on the station porch, one of them a Navajo Indian, when a dude tourist pulled up. The dude's mouth popped open. "Are you a full-blooded Indian?" he asked eagerly.

"Nope," said our Navajo, grinning. "I'm a pint short."

★ ★ ★

Saw a sign over a dress shop in Panguitch: *SQUAW PLEATING*. How do you pleat a squaw?

★ ★ ★

When Adele and I went with three Utah families for a picnic near Bluff, we of course went first to the grocery. We men got shocked anew. The only thing that keeps most of us from investing in the stock market, we agreed, is the price level in the supermarket. But our wives informed us that small-town and rural groceries cost about 10 percent less than big-city groceries. Moral: live RFD.

★ ★ ★

Costs about twice as much to feed me as it does to feed my wife anyway. I'm taking all the nourishment I can wheedle or afford; she's taking a slimnastics course.

★ ★ ★

"We ain't got no income taxes up here," Old Man Miller told us, from his cabin porch near Beaver, Utah. "Ain't got no income."

Very frustrating for Uncle Sam.

★ ★ ★

"If business don't improve," a sign on a new shop said, "watch for our fire sale."

★ ★ ★

A sense of humor, unexcelled in America, characterizes

those good folk in Utah. Much of it centers about the weather, of course. "Ear muffs make a nice Christmas gift," said one gent in upper-level lower-Utah. "They keep the wearer from hearing what other people say about the weather."

★ ★ ★

One gent took his small son Teddy on his first deer hunt. He briefed him as carefully as if they planned a new charge up San Juan Hill, explaining every detail of dressing out a deer carcass. "Now do you understand everything?" Father asked.

"Sure," Teddy nodded. "I shoot the deer. I hang him in a tree. I slice open his belly, pull out his entrails, go behind a tree and urp."

★ ★ ★

An Eastern woman, staying overnight in a Moab motel last Fall, didn't know it was deer season. When she peeked into the dining room and saw it filled with hunters, she exclaimed, "How sensible! Utah makes all its drunks wear red hats!"

★ ★ ★

Climbed that long, utterly fascinating trail to Utah's matchless Rainbow Bridge. It's like a visit to a magnificent cathedral—awesome, inspiring, even a little frightening. The dome of our nation's capitol would fit under that rainbow of rock, frozen there for lo these many centuries. It is one of the least-appreciated, least-known grandeurs of North America. Set your sights to visit that incredibly grand spot on our Western "desert."

★ ★ ★

Mountain climbers are becoming more numerous in southern Utah anyway, often reaching up to appalling heights. But do you happen to know why they rope themselves together? "It's to keep the sensible ones from going home," a spirited old lady up there told me.

★ ★ ★

Made up my attendance by visiting a Kiwanis Club in Salt Lake City. It was a great meeting; the air was filled with speeches, and vice versa.

★ ★ ★

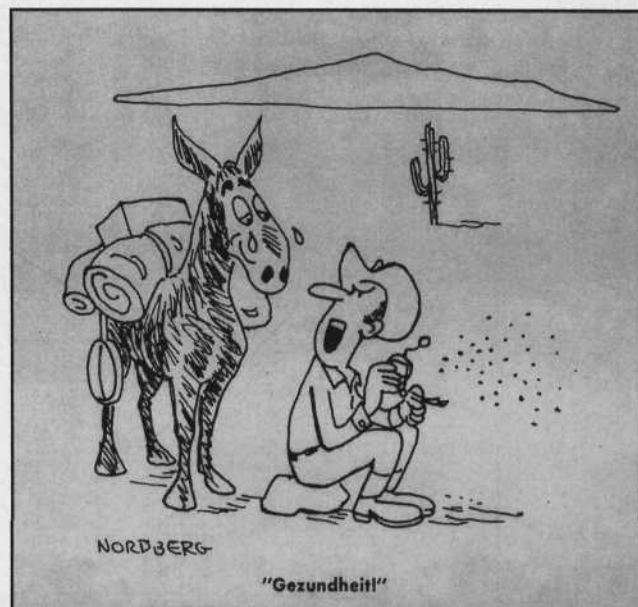
Found a friendly motel operator on Highway 91, one I had visited before. He said business wasn't as good this year as last year. But a friend reminded him he had hung out a NO VACANCY sign every night in 1963. "Yes, I know," the manager nodded, "but this year I turned away only about half as many as I did up to April last year."

★ ★ ★

One tourist lad from Milwaukee climbed a high Utah mountain, got affected by the exhilarating altitude, and asked, "Dad, is this what you mean by Dizzyland?"

★ ★ ★

Adele and I returned to Arizona refreshed. Utah does that to you. You can't steep yourself in color for a week and not feel it, for the impact lingers, forever if you allow it to. It is truly restorative, and we think it is a divine thing. We remember, always, that our Lord chose a "desert" region of beauty for His son to appear on earth. Any who will, can find Him on any desert now. ///





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